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Kent on Sunday

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'We must all stop airport destroying marsh loved by Dickens'

By Chris Britcher
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LANDSCAPES captured forever in the work of Charles Dickens face being turned into an expanse of soulless concrete if proposals to build a multi-billion pound airport in the Thames Estuary get the go-ahead.

As the battle to oppose the plans, which would forever devastate the North Kent Marshes, continues to gather steam, the RSPB hammered home the natural beauty which would be lost forever if the county was to become a giant building site in a bid to help solve the South East's aviation capacity problems.

And the campaign was also boosted by the support of the great, great grandson to Charles Dickens who spoke of his "horror" at the proposals and his fears the scenes which inspired his forefather could be destroyed.

NO Estuary Airport

Tens of thousands of people are set to flock to Rochester this weekend to celebrate the life and times of the author during its annual Dickens Festival, with this year's event packing an extra punch as 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Gerald Dickens, who is performing during the festival, explained: "I read with horror the renewed plans to situate yet another London airport on the North Kent Marshes. I'm sure there are objections from all corners; environmental, economic, and logistical but my fear is that we lose an area of the country so closely linked with our heritage.

"My great-great-grandfather loved

Continued on page 2

STAND AND DELIVER

PRINCE CHARMING: Adam Ant heads to the county to entertain us – **SEE INSIDE**

STANDARD OF LIVING

Town named top of the table

PARTS of Kent have scored highly in a new survey looking at the best places to live in the country. Various criteria were used, such as being good for young or older children, to measure to best towns. But it wasn't all good news, some parts of the county were near the bottom of the table. **PAGE 3**

ENTERTAINMENT

Punk legend storms castle

INFAMOUS former Sex Pistols frontman John Lydon is bringing his band Public Image Limited to Kent for a summer show at one of the county's castles. The rock icon talks about his stage fright, his notorious reputation, and why he now describes himself as a folk singer. **PAGES 8-9**

SPORT

Spitfires gun for Sharks

KENT cricket coach Jimmy Adams feels his side are well prepared for all formats of the game ahead of their first t20 match of the season on Tuesday. The Spitfires entertain Sussex Sharks in the final game of the Tunbridge Wells Cricket Festival at the Nevill Ground. **PAGE 79**

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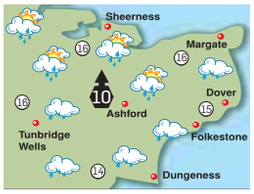

TODAY: Cloudy with patchy rain, but sunshine possible later. Gentle winds. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy, but dry. Min temp 9-12C (48-54F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	03.59	6.1	16.15	6.2
Margate	05.12	4.5	17.15	4.5
St Mary's	09.51	4.8	22.15	5.0

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 17C	Min 10C
Tuesday	Max 16C	Min 10C
Wednesday	Max 17C	Min 11C
Thursday	Max 18C	Min 9C
Friday	Max 18C	Min 9C
Saturday	Max 19C	Min 10C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CAMPAIGN

Our iconic landscape under threat

Continued from front page

this part of Kent, he lived and died in Higham, he took his honeymoon in Chalk and he often walked across the marshes for inspiration.

"The Hoo peninsula is not only a setting for one novel, it is the inspiration for many scenes, many characters and a catalyst for some of the most important reforms in the history of Great Britain. For that reason alone we should preserve and celebrate its heritage."

The RSPB has been one of the most vocal opponents of the scheme, alongside Medway Council, Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council, in addition to the area's MPs.

Paul Outhwaite, public affairs manager at the RSPB, added: "The North Kent Marshes is one of the most iconic landscapes in southern Britain.

"This is Dickens country and his evocation of the Thames marshes has been brought to life many times in screen adaptations of Great Expectations. It is a landscape of space, big skies and, in winter, it plays host to one of the great wildlife spectacles: hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese and wading birds that depend on the area for survival.

"Napoleonic forts overlook the river, and the marshland is the background against which Charles Dickens set some of his most memorable stories. You can even visit the churchyard where Magwitch met Pip in Great Expectations."

There are currently two primary proposals for the area – an airport built on Grain and championed by the architect Lord Foster; and an idea put forward by London Mayor Boris Johnson to build on reclaimed land in the estuary itself, dubbed 'Boris Island'.

The idea is to relocate much of Heathrow's traffic to the site – bringing with it thousands of jobs, but also forever changing huge swathes of the county.

Adds Mr Outhwaite: "This is also a place where commerce and industry have thrived for centuries – and continue to do so. Plans to enhance the economy of the Thames have been promoted by successive governments.

"Projects such as the huge new London Gateway port in Essex are an example of this and the RSPB, which is Europe's largest wildlife conservation charity, could all too easily see this as a massive threat. However, London Gateway is one example of how economic expansion can be achieved without irreparably damaging the integrity of the natural environment.

"There are other proposals for the estuary that are never going to bring those mutual benefits. The suggestion to build a massive new airport is the biggest and most damaging example.

"Research demonstrates access to green space benefits people's health and well-being. It can also enhance perceptions of an area, making it more attractive for investment. These assets must be acknowledged and used to ensure a secure and sustainable future for all the inhabitants of the Thames Estuary.

"The area offers an opportunity to create a landscape that delivers the best of both worlds; a dynamic, world-class economy within a natural environment with benefits to wildlife and people.

"Can it be done? The unified opposition to the airport suggests a positive vision for the future of the estuary and in particular north Kent does not include such damaging proposals. Some signs are pointing in the right direction.

"People at all levels see the vision of sustainable development as a reality. If we succeed, the complete landscape of Thames Estuary, and the North Kent Marshes, could be the envy of the world; if we fail, we will be poorer – economically, environmentally and spiritually."

Despite some reports to the contrary, the Government has still failed to confirm when a consultation process will take place – an exercise welcomed by critics of the controversial scheme as an opportunity to formally object.

This newspaper, which has thrown its weight behind those opposing the aiport proposals, has called for the Government to confirm when the process will get under way. The Department of Transport continue to say "in the summer" but could not confirm whether it would begin before Parliament goes on summer recess – which could push it back to September.

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the airport proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.

Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line.

DEVELOPMENT

Turbine firm tight-lipped on Osborne cash cut

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

VESTAS this week refused to be drawn on speculation that Chancellor George Osborne wants to slash wind farm subsidies – and the impact it could have on its plans to inject 2,000 jobs into the local economy.

The Danish firm recently secured planning permission to build an off-shore wind turbine factory in Sheerness.

But it had long threatened that any move by the Government to slash support for alternative energy could see it switch off its intentions to create a new factory on Sheppey.

DESIGN: The proposed wind turbine factory at Sheerness

The specuation emerged in The Observer newspaper last weekend. The report claimed the Treasury wants to cut subsidies to on-shore wind farms by 25 per cent.

Although Vestas' plant would be off-shore, it once again raised questions over Government support for such investment.

But the firm refused to be drawn. A Vestas spokesman told this paper: "We are closely following the latest political development in the UK in regards to wind energy, but we will not speculate on how this can affect on-shore or off-shore."

The Government has previously said it wants renewable sources, such as wind, to provide 15 per cent of the UK's energy supply by 2020.

Gordon Henderson, the Conservative MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, said: "Consideration by Mr Osborne, if indeed the speculation is true, does not constitute Government policy.

"My view is that this story has been promoted by the anti on-shore wind turbine MPs."

In February, 101 Tory MPs – including five from Kent – wrote to the Prime Minister asking him to cut wind farm subsides. They argued that on-shore wind farms are "inefficient" and a blight on the countryside, and that it was unfair for taxpayers to be burdened with the cost.

The planned factory would manufacture the V164-7.0MW turbine, which is twice as powerful as those sitting off the Thanet coast and has a blade span the size of the London Eye.

The Vestas plant carries added weight on its shoulders since the collapse of Thamesteel earlier this year, with the loss of nearly 400 jobs. Hopes of finding a buyer for the site are fading since a deal brokered by the administrators of the site collapsed last month.

Swale Borough Council was unable to provide a response before this paper went to press.

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STANDARD OF LIVING

County's towns hit highs and lows on list of best places to live in the UK

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

TONBRIDGE is one of the best places to live in the country, according to a new report.

It was also found to be the number one area to set up home for people with older children.

West Kent towns dominated the results, with Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells in the top 10 for people who have younger children.

Maidstone performed well too, placed 52 on the list for homes with younger children, and ranked 74th best place to live overall.

However Thanet didn't score so highly, coming in 293rd out of 324 local authorities in the overall list, making it one of the worst places in the UK. It also ranked in the bottom 10 areas to live for families both young or older children.

Swale also scored poorly at 214, with Medway at 236th as a place to live for people whose children have left home.

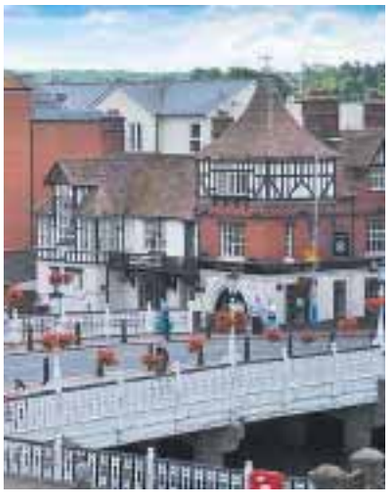
The analysis, conducted by credit checking company Experian, looked at different variables such as crime rates and unemployment levels in each local authority. They then ranked the areas to find the best place to live.

Experian also created top 10 lists for four distinct life stages: people before they have children; people with young children; people with older children; and people who are post-children.

The report, commissioned by the Sunday Times, added extra variables for these life stages, such as lots of shops and job opportunities for people before they have children.

Tonbridge and Malling is the sixth best place to live in the country down to the area scoring highly in each variable.

Education standards there are high, ranking 32 out of 324 local authorities for highest Ofsted score and 18 out of 324 for educational achievement.



TOP SPOT: Tonbridge ranked highly in the survey

Male life expectancy for the area is considered good at 79.5 years and there are strong levels of employment with 88 per cent of economically active adults working.

Homebuyers will be pleased to know house affordability is good compared to income; the average house costs 7.75 times the average income, which stood at £30,738 per household.

Shops in the area are also doing well – the retail vacancy rate is only seven per cent.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council chief executive, David Hughes, said: "The very high ranking of Tonbridge and Malling in the survey comes as welcome recognition that the area boasts excellent educational and leisure facilities, has a skilled workforce reflected in low unemployment, and is a low crime area with strong and thriving communities.

"It is an excellent place to live and work and the survey results can only enhance the reputation of the area and boost the chances of further inward investment."

Sevenoaks came fifth in the top 10 list of best areas to live for families with young children, and Tunbridge Wells came eighth.

Sevenoaks District Council leader Cllr Peter Fleming, said: "It is fantastic that Sevenoaks district has been recognised as providing a positive environment for residents with young children.

"A safe community combined with a vibrant economy and an abundance of green open spaces creates a welcoming district able to offer a wonderful place for people of all ages to live and work."

The results show Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells have good schools, a well qualified population, house affordability and lots of job opportunities.

Councillor Jane March, cabinet member with responsibility for economic development at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council said: "It's very pleasing to see that Tunbridge Wells is so well placed in this list as being a great place for people with young families.

"The borough has lots to offer for both residents and businesses who locate here."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hunt for dog attacker

THE RSPCA is hunting an animal abuser who hit a dog on the head so violently it had to be put down. The Jack Russell terrier was found cowering after being hit with what is thought to be a stiletto shoe, screwdriver, or a piece of wood with a nail in. It was left with a hole in its skull. The attack took place in Dover over the jubilee weekend. Dog walkers found the Jack Russell on the footpath at the junction of Bunkers Hill Road and Hillside Road.

EastEnder's school gig

EASTENDERS star Lindsey Coulson, who plays matriarch Carol Jackson, will be supporting The New School at West Heath, Sevenoaks, at its annual fundraiser Lawnfest. She will be storytelling in the children's area at the one-day boutique festival on Saturday June 30. Other stars performing include The Magic Numbers, Cleo Sol, Man like Me, and Manchow. Tickets are adult £20; family £40; over 9s £10. More information at www.lawnfest.co.uk.

Road rage attack on boy

POLICE are hunting a van driver who drove onto the kerb and ran over the foot of a schoolboy before getting out, attacking him, and throwing him into a hedge. The incident took place as the boy, 13, was crossing Ashford Road, Tenterden, with a friend, near Homewood School. It took place around 4.30pm on May 28, but police have only now revealed the incident. Some vehicles had been held up as the boys crossed.

ENVIRONMENT

Water firms say hosepipe ban will stay in place despite heavy rainfall

WHILE one Kent water company is tentatively looking at possibly lifting its hosepipe ban, the others say the restrictions will stay in force despite the recent weeks of heavy rain.

Vital underground supplies have not risen enough with the rainfall, although some reservoir levels have improved.

One of the largest reservoirs, run by Southern Water, is Bewl near Lamberhurst. Levels have crept up to a healthier 78 per cent, but the company said overground supplies only account for seven per cent of its stock.

Thames Water covers just a small section of the county, and revealed it is considering lifting the restriction. But Kent's major suppliers, Southern, South East Water and Veolia all say the hosepipe ban, which began on April 5, stays in place.

After two dry winters, rainfall has varied enormously recently with 100mm in December, down to under 20mm in February, and now back up again to 80mm in April.

But it's the wrong type of rain. Southern said it needs a persistent, averagely heavy rain so it can soak through the dry ground and in to the aquifers, which supply around three quarters of the water needed in Kent.

Too little, and it evaporates or is used by flora. Too much and it causes floods.

South East Water said the ban will stay in place until at least the autumn.

Managing director Paul Butler said: "We understand customers could be confused and frustrated as to why some companies are considering lifting restrictions while we have to keep ours in place.

"The fact is the amount of water currently available in our underground reserves simply doesn't support that course of action, and ahead of what could be much warmer, drier months."

Veolia is urging customers to make summer water saving a top priority, and its head of operations in the South East, Gavin McHale, said: "Unfortunately, any rain over the summer will not help us because now most of the water will be taken up by trees and plants or evaporate."

Dame Yve Buckland, chair of the Consumer Council for Water, said: "It is important any restrictions are lifted at the right time so there is not a risk in the short to medium term of them being reintroduced, as this could be confusing."

And the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs added: "We asked the Environment Agency to keep the drought under constant review so that no area has restrictions placed upon them if they are not necessary.

"People should continue to use water wisely – we must start to recognise it as the precious resource it is."

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From Rochester take A228 towards Snodland.

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REGENERATION

Parties clash over claim Portas cash a 'sticking plaster' for town's plight

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PLANS for a town's high street to get a Mary Portas makeover have been described as a "sticking plaster" that will not tackle deep-seated economic problems.

The 'Portas Pilot' money is to help rejuvenate high streets, but the local Labour Party says not enough cash is on offer.

Dartford's application to become one of the 12 Portas pilot towns in the UK was successful along with Margate, which is notorious as one of Britain's most financially starved areas.

Labour members in Dartford said although the investment is worthwhile, it is simply a drop in the ocean of what is actually required.

They said little has been done to reverse the town centre's decline since the Tory council was elected in 2003.

Just £79,000 of Portas-related funding is available to support a range of council measures which by themselves are far too modest and low-level to tackle Dartford's problems, the group said. And it claims government-led support for Dartford has come to a grinding halt.

It said the Portas money is being spent on "low level" projects like buying a handful of pop-up market stalls, training for local shopkeepers and "some kind of drop-in advice centre" for a town centre were 20 per cent of the shops are empty.

Labour group leader Cllr Geoff Prout said: "The Portas money is just a sticking plaster and the council's proposals are just too modest to make much difference to a town where one on five shops are empty.

"It's far too little and much too late – Dartford needs a coherent long-term regeneration plan to attract businesses back into the town and to generate new jobs for local people.

"Under the Tories, the town centre has been in decline for years while a new Tesco was presented as being the great hope. But that's still years away and, instead of a coherent regeneration plan, all we've got are some small-scale gestures from the Tory council and some spare change from the Tory-led government.

"All town centres, Dartford included, would benefit from policies that support economic growth, but this Tory-led government's determination to push through swinging spending cuts, regardless of the consequences, is a recipe for recession."

Dartford council leader Cllr Councillor Jeremy Kite hit back saying: "The Labour strategy seems to be to rubbish everything.

AN IDEAS WOMAN: Shopping guru Mary Portas

"On the Portas money, no-one has ever claimed this is a catch-all solution. I am not sure if Labour is saying we shouldn't have bid for it or we shouldn't have won.

"We just want to do a little bit of good in our town. My strategy is to only focus on the positive. All this negativity is so old-fashioned.

"We have never claimed this will cure all our problems, we are suffering hard, but are determined do something about it.

"Mary Portas knows a thing or two about retail and obviously saw something in our bid that she liked. Perhaps Labour should be telling her she's no bloody good."

Margate is getting £100,000 for projects like turning shops in to enterprise centres, courses, plus a market.

Towns like Sheerness, Ramsgate and Ashford plan to tweak their failed bids and try again.

NEWS IN BRIEF

M-way works warning

MOTORISTS who use the M20 should brace themselves for delays next week when overnight safety work begins on a stretch of the motorway. The Highways Agency says the work will see road markings and studs renewed on both carriageways between junction eight and nine – between Maidstone and Ashford. Work starts on Monday, June 11, and is expected to be finished by July 6. There will be overnight lane closures and a temporary 50mph speed limit.

Young animal sleuths

YOUNG visitors to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park near Ashford can become detectives this month as they uncover clues to find out where the animals have gone, while discovering all about the wild animal park's schemes to send captive born animals back to the wild. Visitors will be able to follow the detective trail and fill in the answers in their free Ranger Log Books available from the gatehouse. More details at www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne.

Games show kicks off

DEMAND for the Olympic celebration at Leeds Castle has smashed all expectations, with thousands keen to see hip hop stars Rizzle Kicks. There have been nearly three times as many applicants as there are tickets available. The online ballot for the 4,670 free tickets closed on Friday. Maidstone council, which is organising the July 19 event to welcome the Olympic Torch said 80 per cent of the tickets will go to locals.

WILDLIFE

Shelling begins in fight to win back isle's coast from a foreign invader

AN ARMY of volunteers are taking to the beaches to start the fightback against foreign invaders who have quietly been setting up camp on the coast.

The year-long project will assess exactly how widespread the invading Pacific oyster is around the Thanet coastline.

The trained volunteers are working near the Western Undercliff at Ramsgate to gather vital data on the species, which should not be able to survive in British waters.

With claims the seas have warmed slightly, it's thought these Pacific oysters could have escaped from licensed farms, and are now believed to be taking over vast parts of Kent's protected chalk reef.

So now a scheme by Natural England is setting out to discover how bad the situation is.

The major Southern Water sewage spill this week, which affected all Thanet's beaches, will not halt the start of the project.

Picture: NATURAL ENGLAND

INVADER: The Pacific oyster has been slowly taking over around Kent coast

Volunteers will be armed with dry stone walling hammers and a hand-held lawn edging tool to remove the Pacific oyster's top shells.

The bottom shell is left in place to avoid damage to the reef, and the oyster itself will be left as food for birds.

The team will also have a tally counter to keep count of just how many there are.

It will all be done at low tide when the oysters are uncovered to make the work safer, and will be repeated 10 times over the next year.

Experts believe the Pacific oysters are driving out the native blue mussels and disturbing the reef. Their possible impact on other species will be assessed during the survey work.

Willie McKnight, project co-ordinator working for Natural England, said: "We are targeting selected sections along the coast which were identified by the monitoring data to remove the oysters. We have a group of specially trained local volunteers who will remove the oysters safely.

"It is important this isn't attempted by those who are not trained as some of the Pacific oysters attach themselves to Kent's protected chalk reef and therefore removal has to be done with great care.

"We are so grateful to have such willing volunteers – it is a great step in the long-term management of a non-native species."

The Pacific oyster population was first discovered during a survey of the north east Kent European Marine Sites by Kent Wildlife Trust in 2007, in much higher numbers than expected.

The situation has been monitored ever since because the area is of national and international importance, with a range of special legal designations protecting these native species and habitats.

■ **See more news at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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LONDON 2012

Death Valley Jack not strong enough to outrun Olympic sponsors and win torch-bearer honour

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A "FARCE" – that's what Death Valley hero Jack Denness calls the decision over who will get to carry the Olympic torch on its way through Kent next month.

He was overlooked for the job, which is supposed to go to those who have done something amazing for their communities.

However, despite Mr Denness raising more than £100,000 for the Wisdom Hospice in Rochester and other organisations at the grand age of 77, he wasn't deemed important enough to hold the torch.

He is known as Death Valley Jack after completing the harrowing Death Valley race 12 times, all paid for from his own pocket.

Even after all that, some of the runners have apparently been chosen because they are linked to firms that have sponsorship deals with the Olympic Games.

Mr Denness, from Rochester, said: "It is a farce. I just came up against a brick wall."

The incredible runner got backing from Medway MP Mark Reckless, and went to a meeting in London to put his case forward, but Mr Denness was still overlooked.

He said: "At first I thought, that was the way the cookie crumbles, but I hear someone locally has to go to Scotland to carry the torch.

"It is not a case of sour grapes but I genuinely think I should have got the chance to carry the torch through my home town to say a thank you to all the people who have supported me.

"I have been told someone from Poland and two from Cheam will be doing it. It is incredible.

REJECTED: Rochester's charity runner Jack Denness will not carry the Olympic torch, despite having raised more than £100,000 for charity

"On one hand they say it is all about inspiring young people. I know I am old, but I still work as a school caretaker and I still run.

"Some of these people who are doing it are just working for big business to get some corporate names out there – it's not about sport. That is not the Olympic spirit.

"The people who will be doing it in Rochester are not from the area. They won't be representing our town, so I just don't know how they're picked.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime chance for me. Something I could have told my grandkids about, but it's gone out the window."

In all, there are 8,000 torchbearers covering 8,000 miles. Some 7,200 are members of the public who won the job through public-nomination schemes run by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and a trio of major sponsors of the Games, Samsung, Coca-Cola and Lloyds TSB.

Then some of the final 800 positions were given to stakeholders, such as the International Olympic Committee, and the rest were left to be distributed internally among the three main sponsors and primary sponsors, such as Adidas.

A spokesman for London 2012 said: "Staging the Olympic Games is a huge undertaking and we couldn't do it without support from our commercial partners. The rights packages for some partners include a small number of torchbearer places that had to be filled through internal campaigns."

Mr Denness added: "I really didn't stand a chance – I am a small fish, but at least I know many people believe what I do for charity is important."

■ **See www.yourmedway.co.uk for more news and sport.**

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

This is John Lydon:

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

JOHN Lydon's reputation does more than simply proceed him. It arrives at your door, laden down with suitcases and spends a couple of weeks camped out in your spare room unnerving you.

And just as you come to terms with whether you love or hate it or are simply thoroughly confused by it, the man himself appears and does more of the same.

Satisfyingly, he is exactly how you imagined him – forthright in his views, full of bounce, and thoroughly engaging.

Speaking from his home on the outskirts of Los Angeles, the artist formerly known as Johnny Rotten and once jagged thorn in the side of British sensibilities as lead singer of the Sex Pistols, is preparing for a summer show in Kent.

As headliner of the new Music Event One (ME1) festival, the iconic 56-year-old will front his band Public Image Limited (PiL) for one night in the auspicious surroundings of Rochester Castle on July 28.

"I'd like to come on wearing a full suit of armour," he quips, "but have you felt how heavy those things are?"

It could prove to be the highlight of a crowded summer calendar of music in the county.

"There are so many errors, so many false myths about me," he reflects about that reputation of his. "It's six of one, half a dozen of the other.

"For me, I'm a human being, I like my own space, I'm not a rowdy sod and I don't interfere with others.

"I don't do this to make enemies. I never have. Everything I do is for the people and by the people because I am one of the people, that is why I call myself, with a sense of cheekiness, a folk musician."

Certainly his return to the studio – following a hiatus fuelled by a fall-out with his previous record company – has

Former Sex Pistol reveals his public image

been warmly welcomed by critics and fans alike.

With new album This Is PiL, it would seem he is just as able to put a cat amongst the proverbial post-punk pigeons today as he was when he set PiL up just months after the Sex Pistols split.

One thing, however, has dogged him throughout the five decades his career has now spanned and will no doubt haunt him again in Medway next month: stage fright.

"I still get very nervous going on stage," he explains. "If I lost that I'd lose the driving energy needed to do what I do.

"You have to be so committed to what it is you get up to and it seems to me the only thing to get the adrenalin going is pure fear.

"It's the fear of letting people down – it's always been like that. I've read many a book about stage fright, from the likes of Laurence Olivier onwards; I was relieved I wasn't the only one. I know that with stage fright I'm among good company.

"And many singers suffer from that. They may tell the press something different, but it's fear. It's a hard thing. You don't have an instrument in front of you, you don't have a machine that goes 'bing', you can't hit anything, you can't twang some strings, it all has to come from inside and the nervous energy and the adrenalin is what makes that happen and react to the surroundings. And hopefully it works favourably.

"I'm at my happiest when I'm on stage."

Organisers of the ME1 festival in Rochester are banking on PiL providing a springboard to bigger and better things over the coming years.

PiL top a line-up with Leeds band and indie favourites the Wedding Present supporting alongside local group Theatre Royal and hip-hop outfit Kids Unique.

It will provide the highlight of a series of live music events taking place in venues throughout Rochester on the day.

If all goes to plan, then next year should see the event spread over two days, and then three by 2014.

It is another festival in an already crowded marketplace.

"It's nothing like when I was young," he reflects. "It used to be one stage, 12-15 bands a day and no-one cared about the format and running order. Now it's so orchestrated.

"If the audience is like me, they come to see everything. I used to love it when I was 15, I'd bunk on a train and go up north to any festival I could. I'd just spend the weekend crawling in and out of the fences.

"Money is tight when you're young, but the thrill of seeing so many bands approaching the world of music so differently was pretty inspiring.

"It was through that diversity that I found my own voice."

Visit www.kentnews.co.uk for an extended interview with John Lydon.

■ Public Image Ltd perform at ME1 in Rochester Castle Gardens on Saturday, July 28. Support comes from the Wedding Present, Theatre Royal and Kids Unique. Tickets cost £26 and are on sale now. See www.musiceventone.co.uk for more information.

NOT SO ROTTEN: John Lydon will perform at Rochester Castle with his band Public Image Limited

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DEVELOPMENT

Land swap deal agreed

TUNBRIDGE Wells Borough Council has taken over Sherwood lake and woodland after exchanging contracts with Town & Country Housing Group. The deal was part of a land swap, with Town & Country taking ownership of pockets of land in Sherwood and Ramslye from the council. It will now push ahead with regeneration plans for the area.

CRIME

Benefit cheat caught

A MAN who didn't tell the council he had married and his wife was employed has been order to repay £4,548 in benefits at £100 a month. Luke Medhurst, aged 30, of Seymour Road, Gravesend, pleaded guilty to three charges of failing to promptly declare changes in circumstances to Gravesham Borough Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

CRIME

CARNAGE: The violent attack on the animal rescue centre saw chickens killed and four dogs stolen

Raiders steal dogs in horror attack on animal care centre

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THUGS have smashed their way in to an animal rescue centre and gone on a bloody rampage – slaughtering many of the creatures.

The distressing raid happened last week at the Second Chance Animal Rescue facilities in Crockenhill, near Swanley.

Those responsible left behind such brutal devastation it defied belief, said the owner John Ranger. He runs the centre with his partner Julie Tullett and he still can't quite comprehend what has happened.

Mr Ranger said: "It was like a horror film when I walked in. We have had rabbits stamped on, chickens killed, ducklings thrown at walls – we have got quite a bit of devastation."

The heartless vandals also stole four dogs and Mr Ranger fears they will be used in illegal fights.

He said: "This is the first time this has happened to us, and now I worry it is not going to be the last."

He and Ms Tullett are now visiting the centre at random times day and night in the hope of stopping a second assault.

Mr Ranger said: "We came up here Tuesday morning to open up as we do every morning every day, even Christmas Day, and the place was strewn with stamped-on bodies, blood everywhere and the chickens had been kicked to pieces.

"It broke our heart. We still have 300 animals here that we have got to care for, so we are picking up the pieces and carrying on. I can't believe the dogs were stolen.

"My son Alfie's four-year-old terrier was stolen that was bought for him by his grandparents as a first birthday present and he is really upset.

"He was there when we first walked in and was really shaken up by the sight.

"There were animals, feathers, fur, all over the place. Some of the rabbits are being treated for their injuries caused by kicks and cuts."

The couple are now appealing for the thieves to bring the dogs back.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Red Arrows swoop in to mark airshow's return

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

A SPECTACULAR display from an RAF Typhoon Eurofighter was the climax to the Folkestone Air Show.

Staged last Saturday as part of celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the event also included the first public aerobatic display by the Red Arrows as a team of seven.

The RAF's top display team is flying seven-strong this year following the deaths of two pilots in 2011 and the departure of its first female pilot.

The formation made their entrance flying low over the town and out to sea, with red, white and blue smoke streaming from behind.

The drizzle and low cloud had given way to intermittent blue skies, and the Red Arrows got the best of the weather.

The airshow was the first to be held on Folkestone seafront for nine years and thousands flocked to The Leas and the coastal park which borders the shore to obtain vantage points.

Other highlights of the display included the Battle of Britain Flight which featured legendary combat aircraft from World War Two.

A formation of three took to the skies and to great applause a Lancaster bomber flanked by a Hurricane and a Spitfire flew at low level over the sea – almost at eye level with spectators watching from rooftops and balconies of homes along the cliff-top promenade.

Aerobatic displays by an RAF Hawk, flights of biplanes and stunt aircraft also took place during the four-hour event which saw the aircraft taking part flying to and from Manston and Lydd airports.

LOOK UP: From left, a Lancaster bomber, the Red Arrows and biplanes were among the aircraft taking part

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ASTRONOMY

Weather thwarts Venus stargazers

NEARLY 100 people who turned out on Wednesday morning to catch a glimpse of the transit of Venus, were thwarted by the British weather.

The transit is where the planet can be clearly seen passing between the Earth and the Sun, in a sort of miniature eclipse.

The group of stargazers gathered on the beach at the Isle of Grain hoping to witness the celestial event which happens just twice a century – next the sighting will not be for 105 years.

The Mid-Kent Astronomical Society said it would have been a spectacular sight, had the clouds partly a little earlier.

It said more than 80 people from across the South East of England and London, arrived with them to watch.

Organiser Bob Tollervey said: "Many astronomers were on hand to explain all about the transit and later to explain the sunspots and even craters that were clearly visible on the Moon. Unfortunately the British weather did not play ball but everyone went away happy."

CRIME

Drink-drive sports fans face a red card ban, warn police

By James Benjamin
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPORTS fans are being told they face the high jump if they are caught driving under the influence of drink or drugs this summer.

Police issued a stern warning that they will look to fast-track those caught posing a danger on our roads, with justice bowled up so fast drivers could lose their licence within a day of being caught.

The warning came as the Euro 2012 football tournament kicked off on Friday, to be followed by a summer of sporting events which will include the Olympics, cricket, and Wimbledon.

England play their first game of the tournament on Monday night, against France.

Virtual court technology will again be used to put those charged with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs before magistrates immediately.

The no-nonsense attitude forms part of the Don't Blow It campaign being rolled out across the county.

In conjunction with Kent County Council and Medway Council, Kent Police will be particularly vigilant this summer, looking out for drivers who are impaired by alcohol or drugs. They will remind drivers that if they give a positive breath test or fail to provide a specimen they will be arrested.

Sgt Hannah Brown, said: "Kent Police takes a zero tolerance approach to drink and drug driving and the summer is one of the busiest times of year for us. This is because people socialise more often, particularly around sporting events, and for longer during the warm, lighter evenings.

"Drivers prosecuted for drink driving will get a disqualification, criminal record, up to £5,000 fine or a possible prison sentence. But the consequences of a serious collision could be far worse, such as the death of a loved one."

KCC cabinet member for environment, highways and waste Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said: "Most drink-driving crashes happen in the summer months and with opportunities to watch the football in a pub, at a party or organised event, the temptation for drivers to drink could be even greater this year.

"The simple message is if you are driving don't drink alcohol, or if you do intend to drink then substitute the car for an alternative way home, such as public transport."

TAKE CARE: Don't drink and drive after watching Roy Hodgson's team

POLICING

See CSIs, guns and petrol bombs at force open day

KENT Police are holding a free family open day on Saturday, June 16.

Activities, demonstrations and stalls will be run to showcase the work the force carries out.

There will be police dogs in action, a public order demonstration complete with petrol bombs, and a Taser display.

The public can also collect crime scene evidence with the CSIs, test their skills in a driving simulator, see if you can tell a real gun from a fake one, and visit the Stay Safe zone for advice on keeping your family, valuables and home safe this summer, including information about cyber bullying and how to manage privacy settings to stay safe online.

The event is at the Kent Police training college in Coverdale Avenue, Maidstone, and will run from 10am-4pm.

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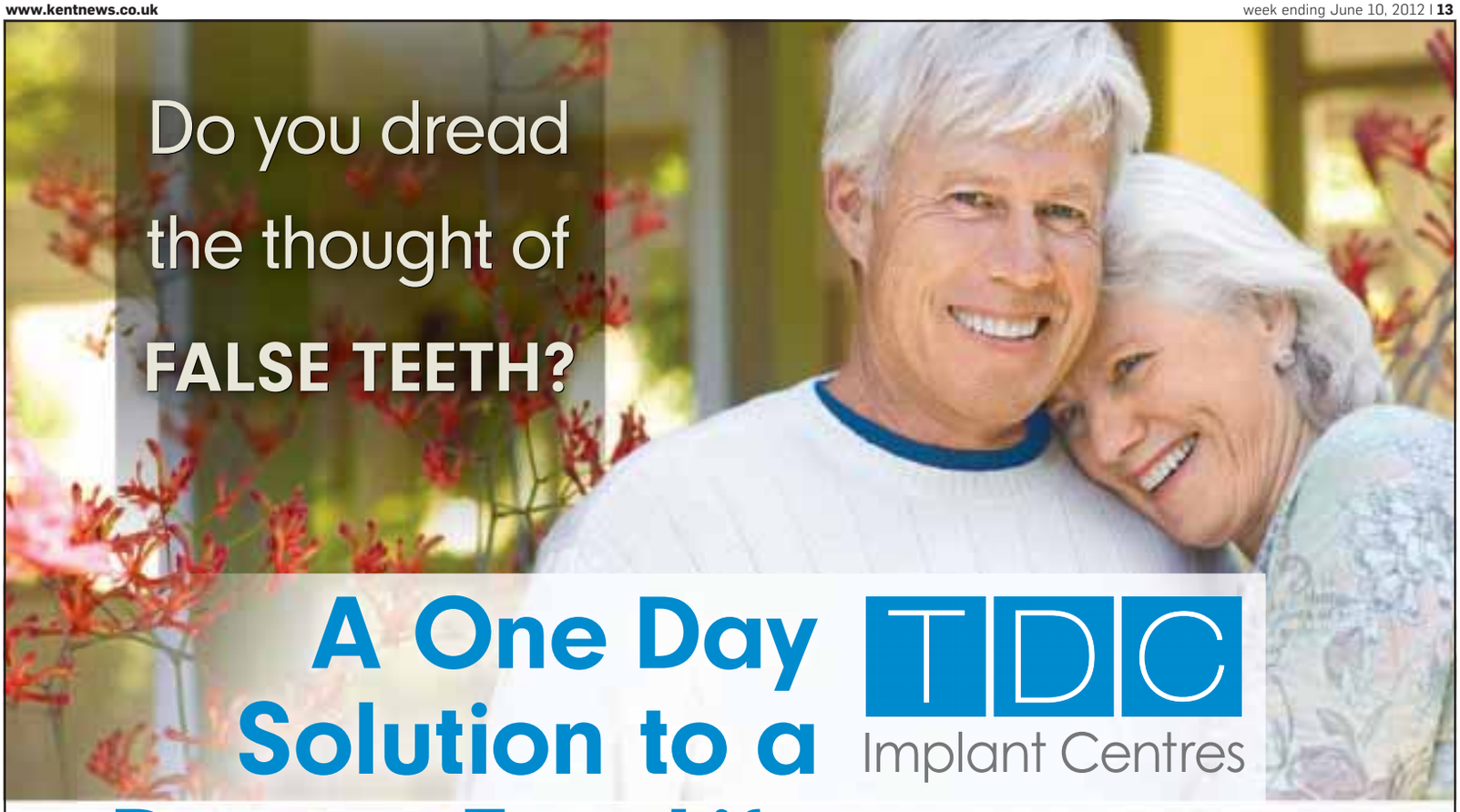

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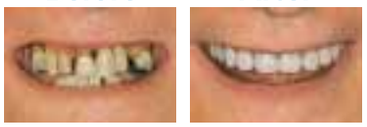

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Advertisers Announcement

Local jobs, for local people!

Bishop of Rochester Academy's new Principal pledges twenty new jobs for local people

The Bishop of Rochester Academy's new Principal, Colin Boxall (pictured), announced that there will be twenty new jobs at the Academy for local people.

"*Local jobs, for local people.*" said Colin Boxall.

"*The Bishop of Rochester Academy is a community secondary school, and one of the ways we intend to demonstrate that the Academy is at the heart of the local community is by employing people from the local community.*" he said.

Mr Boxall made the pledge of twenty new jobs for local people at a recent meeting with parents of students due to start at the Academy in September this year. Mr Boxall joined the the Bishop of Rochester Academy full time as the new Principal only five weeks ago, after working at Academy, in Chatham, part-time since January.

The Bishop of Rochester Academy has already recruited a number of Exam Invigilators for the summer exam season each year, and will also be offering permanent posts suited to local people - such as Mid-day Assistants, required from September. Other new jobs may include people to help run new after-school classes and activities on a range of arts, crafts, technology and sports during the school holidays, plus Fitness Trainers, Games Co-ordinators, Instructors, Activitiy Leaders, Enrichment Club and Gifted & Talented Programme Supervisers... and others!

New Academy building

New staff joining the Academy from now will be among the first to benefit from the superb working environment in the NEW Academy building. The £23 Million 'new-build', which is currently under construction on the Academy's Magpie Hall Road East Campus, will open next Spring (2013) and provide an exceptional environment in which to work and learn, with state-of-the-art facilities for all students and staff.

The Academy will be recruiting a number of Mid-Day Assistants to work at both Campuses - East Campus: Magpie Hall Road; and West Campus: Letchworth Avenue, starting September.

The role of Mid-Day Assistant is to ensure the safety, welfare and good conduct of students during the Mid-day break.

This involves supervising students in the dining areas and surrounding corridors, and the outdoor area and playing fields, to ensure good standards of behaviour by students are maintained.

These are permanent positions, and more information and Application Forms can be obtained via the website: **www.boracademy.org** or by contacting the Academy on: **01634 845196**. Interviews will be conducted during the Summer Term.

Mr Boxall plans a number of new initiatives at the Academy over the coming weeks and months, for the benefit of Academy students which involve the local community.

Anyone living in the Medway area with any specialist skills to offer - in sports, the arts, crafts, music, technology, etc. - should contact the Bishop of Rochester Academy on: **01634 845196** or visit the Academy's website for more information: **www.boracademy.org.**

The Bishop of Rochester Academy - At the Heart of the Local Community

The Bishop of Rochester Academy is a Church of England school where everyone works and learns within its caring and supportive Christian ethos.

The Academy opened in September 2010 and has a community of around 1,200 students plus a growing Sixth Form. It serves mainly the area of Chatham within the Medway towns and we demonstrate that we are at the 'heart of the community'.

The Academy 'Sponsors' - Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, Canterbury Christ Church University and Medway Council - support us in our focus on raising educational standards and creating opportunities for the young people of Medway to achieve their full potential and to excel, with aspirations for all students to continue into further or higher education whether with an academic or vocational direction.

With 'Specialisms' in Maths, ICT and Music, we provide an innovative and challenging curriculum which emphasises achievement and high expectations of, and for, all our students. Our exam results are set to increase year on year, and Ofsted recently commented: "The new Principal's strategic vision demonstrates strong leadership... perceptive insight of what needs to be done...He is rightly focused on raising achievement." (Ofsted - April 2012)

Our new Principal brings new energy and a multitude of new initiatives to drive the future development of the Academy, to ensure our long-term success in providing a quality education for all.

Bishop of Rochester Academy

Local jobs, for local people

20 *NEW* jobs at the Academy by September 2012

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The Bishop of Rochester Academy is a Church of England school where everyone works and learns within its caring and supportive Christian ethos.

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News

CRIME

Firms warned of threat to fleet cars from metal thieves

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN insurance broker claims scrap metal thieves are targeting company cars to remove valuable exhaust parts.

The catalytic converter cleans up exhaust flow, but the small amount of precious metals inside means thieves can also clean up their cash flow.

Often found inside a converter is platinum, or palladium and rhodium – all precious metals. Get enough converters and the profits from scrap can be substantial, especially as metal prices continue to rise.

From the latest national figures, there were 1,100 converters taken during 2009, rising to 2,300 in the first five months of 2010.

Bluefin Insurance, which has offices in Gravesend and Dartford, said the cost of replacement is high and damage to vehicles can be extensive.

And a spokesman added: "We know that incidents are higher in the south and east."

BREAKDOWN: Catalytic converters are targeted by thieves for their precious metal content

Businesses with fleets of vehicles are particularly vulnerable because thieves can hit multiple vehicles in a single location, adding up to thousands of pounds of damage.

The broker said: "Prices for scrap metal have been on a general upward path since late 2008 which, along with the global economic recession, has revived criminal interest.

"It may only take a few seconds for the thief to remove the converter but it can cause major disruption to a business if several vehicles are targeted, costing a small fortune to repair and halting operations.

"Vehicles that sit higher from the ground, such as trucks, pickups and SUVs are particularly vulnerable to catalytic converter theft because thieves can slide underneath without having to jack up the vehicle.

"Corporate fleets should take precautions to protect their vehicles, such as storing them in a locked building or yard where possible. Installing security lighting and cameras will also act as a deterrent to thieves."

While the insurance company found thefts had risen around the UK, Kent Police said they have managed to reduce numbers in the county.

A spokesperson said: "There was a 20 per cent reduction, or 65 fewer incidents, in catalytic converter thefts between April, 2011, and March, 2012. The total for the year was 262 compared to the previous year, when there was a 327 total.

"We do promote security measures to protect catalytic converters so we would like to think the figures reflect our work in that area."

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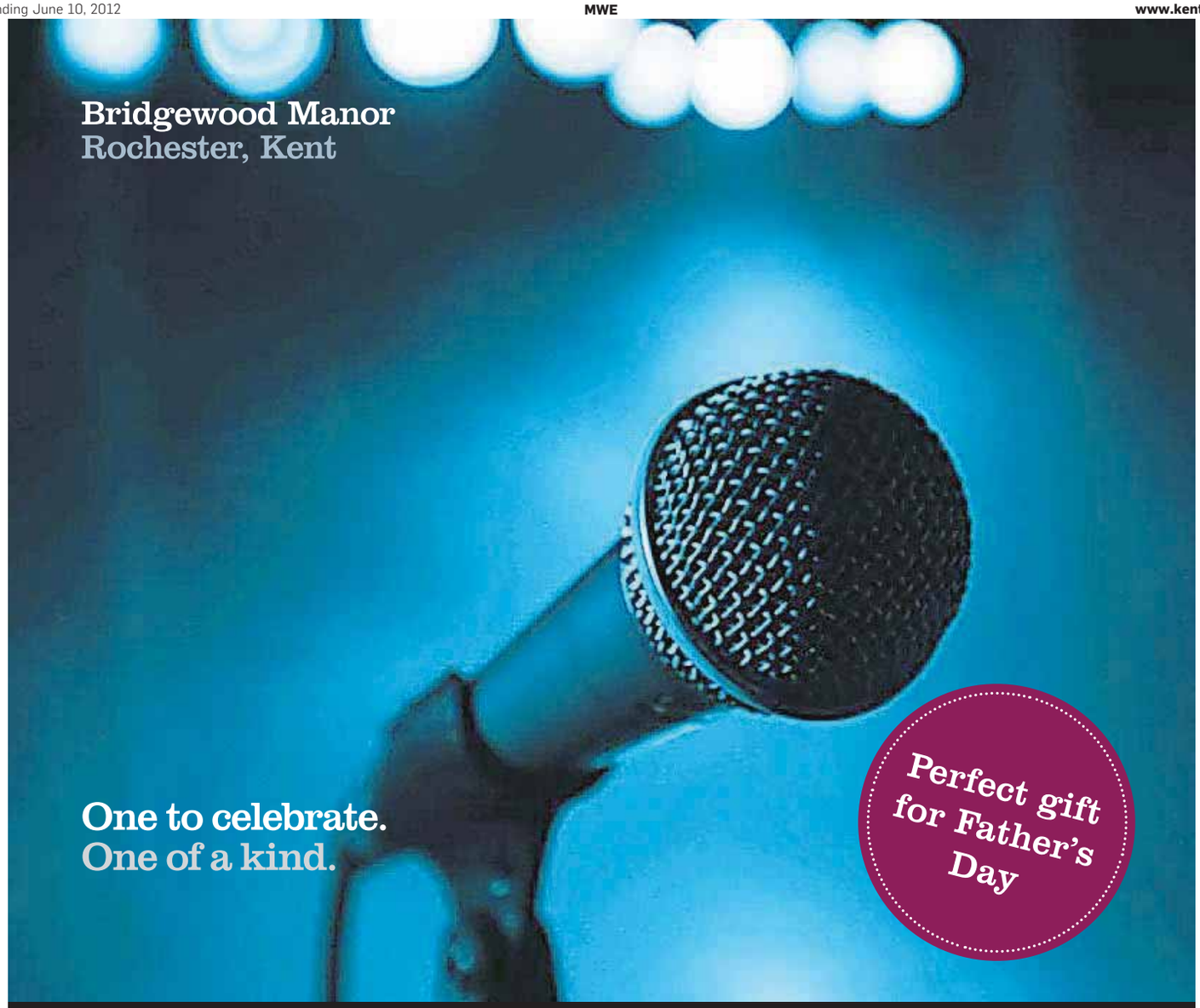

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News

CRIME

Court closes down hotel after police vice probe raid

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SIGNIFICANT prostitution operation at a hotel has resulted in it being shut down for three months under special powers used for the first time in the county.

Using the Sexual Offences Act, the Stone Court Hotel in Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, was closed using a sexual offences closure notice, after a court hearing.

Magistrates in Sevenoaks decided anyone found on the hotel premises in contravention of the order during the closure period could be liable to up to 51 weeks in prison and a £5,000 fine.

Trouble started for the owners when police executed a warrant on May 25.

As a result of the operation a 29-year-old man from Maidstone was arrested on suspicion of supplying controlled substances and facilitating prostitution; a 43-year-old man from Folkestone was arrested on suspicion of fraud and facilitating prostitution; a 30-year-old woman from Maidstone was arrested on suspicion of controlling prostitution; and a 41-year-old doorman from Maidstone was arrested on suspicion of possessing an offensive weapon.

All were later released on police bail until August 3. Police are still working on exactly who owns the hotel.

The officer leading the raid said he was concerned about fire safety and called in a brigade inspector who served a prohibition notice. The building was cleared of all residents and staff.

Inspector Simon Alland, from Maidstone, ran Operation Glare.

He said: "The order stops any person for the next three months from entering the premises.

"Closing it was necessary because people have been released on bail and there is nothing to stop what we believed was happening from restarting. At the end of the three months, we can review the situation and maybe apply for an extension."

In its closure order, the magistrates said: "The court is satisfied that during the relevant period, the premises were used for activities related to one or more specified prostitution offences."

The officer said of the scale of activity at the hotel: "I think it is significant enough that the court has granted the closure order which is the first of its kind in Kent."

Insp Alland, from the community safety unit, added: "We conducted a significant amount of work around the Stone Court Hotel and this order should help reduce reports of drug use and associated anti-social behaviour in the area.

"We have been greatly assisted throughout by contributions from the local authority environmental enforcement team, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the UK Border Agency.

"This success shows the value of different agencies working together to ensure that Maidstone stays a safe place to live, work and socialise."

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CHARITY

Foodbank's plea to superstores for help to feed those in need

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DONATE: It is hoped people will give food at supermarkets

STAFF at a new Ashford foodbank are desperately trying to get supermarkets on their side.

Mark Reece said the church organisation is being supported locally by producer Premier Foods, but is having trouble convincing the big supermarkets of the benefit.

He said: "I think it's a no-brainer, but they are not forthcoming at all. Tesco are being supportive but it is a long process.

"And we have had answers from Sainsbury and Asda, which were both a definitive 'no'."

Ashford Foodbank distributed its first parcels in March, and is now feeding around 10 people a week – including young children. Organisers expect this figure to grow five or sixfold.

The number of foodbanks around the country has increased as the economic situation has worsened.

And Mr Reece is calling on the major companies to allow Ashford Foodbank to put a box or trolley at the front of supermarkets so customers can donate something as they leave the store.

Currently, they are relying on local churchgoers and others to make donations directly. Premier Foods in Ashford, which produces Cup-a-Soup, Pasta 'n' Sauce, Savoury Rice, Paxo, Bisto and McDougal products, has backed the group – and they hope to eventually be able to win over the supermarkets.

Mr Reece said: "What we are hoping is that as we become established we will approach them again and they will be more tempted.

"They are supporting other foodbanks around the country, so there are relationships, but we are new to this town.

"It's an absolute no-brainer for the supermarkets. If one of them gets on board with us, it will encourage the church congregations to go there and spend, and they get plenty of good news stories published."

And he has some tough talking for the public too, because of the 10 per cent of people's food constantly going to waste.

He said: "It is wastage on an immoral scale. Imagine if each time you were paid, you were asked to simply put 10 per cent of your wages in the bin. We cannot imagine that many people would think this is a sane thing to do, yet we continue to do this with our food."

■ **See www.yourashford.co.uk for all the very latest news and sport headlines.**

EMERGENCY

Firefighters save cats from blaze at cottage

A number of cats had to be rescued and treated after a fire at a home in Edenbride on Monday.

Fire crews had to use breathing apparatus as they tackled the blaze at the end-of-terrace cottage at around 10.20am.

Two fire enginges and crews put out the fire and no-one was hurt.

However, several cats suffered from smoke inhalation and required treatment.

RESCUE

Rabbi dies as duo get into trouble off coast

A RABBI died and another man was left needing hospital treatment after they go into trouble in the sea. The coastguard and emergency services were called on Monday morning, after reports of two men off the coast near Westcliff Road, Broadstairs, who needed help.

Both men were rescued from the water. However, Rabbi Chaim Breisch, from Stamford Hill, north london, was taken to hospital by helicopter but subsequently died.

The second man was taken to hospital for treatment.

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News

ANIMALS

Loving home for dumped cats left to die in dustbin

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A PAIR of young cats tightly bound in a plastic bag and callously dumped in a public waste bin have been miraculously saved and are now safely living with a Dartford family.

Cat Cliff, who has a serious eye complaint leaving him with poor sight, was found ditched in the dustbin along with his sister May by a member of public who heard their pitiful mewls for help.

The 18-month-olds were spotted next to a London canal, and staff at Battersea Cats and Dogs Home, which has a centre at Brands Hatch, say they are thankful whoever dumped them used the bin and not the water.

When the terrified pair arrived at Battersea, staff were sickened at the state of Cliff's swollen and cloudy eyes caused by long-standing glaucoma.

His condition, although treatable to a degree, would have put off most potential owners.

But for Claire Sigley and her family, of Seaton Road, Dartford, it was love at first sight when they saw the pair on Battersea's website and she wanted to keep the siblings together.

FELINE BETTER: Cliff left for dead with sister May

She said: "Sadly our cat passed away and we decided we'd like to give a home to a pair of cats.

"Cliff and May sounded really sweet so we enquired about them and when we found out their sad story it made us want them all the more.

"They've settled in to their new life so well and are such affectionate and confident cats.

"Hopefully in time we can let Cliff out in the garden for supervised playtime, but for now he and May seem happy sunning themselves around the house. I can't believe anyone could be so mean, but we're glad we've been able to give them a loving home."

Ros Davies from Battersea's cattery added: "Cliff and May are a delightful pair of cats who deserve the very best after what they've been through. We'll miss their little characters, but are thrilled they've found such a great family."

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News

SPORT

Racehorse's record-breaking victory in front of the Queen

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A KENT racehorse has become the world's fastest over five furlongs, with the Queen looking on as she started her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The incredible performance of Stone of Folca, from the original name of Folkestone, saw him take the world record over that distance in front of the Queen.

He is trained by John Best at Detling, near Maidstone, who could not be happier, as the horse's value has just soared.

Stone of Folca is owned by people holding 120 shares, which were originally bought for £555 each.

But then the horse won the Investec Specialist Bank Dash during the Epsom Derby Day meeting on Saturday, in front of the monarch.

He was a 50-1 long shot, ridden by Luke Morris, but left the rest of the 20-strong field in his wake win in a time of 53.69 seconds.

That is 0.09 seconds faster than Indigenous managed 52 years ago, a race timed using a hand-held stopwatch, which was wildly inaccurate.

The £46,000 prize money is now paid out to the shareholders at around £380 per share, almost paying the owners back in one race.

Mr Best said: "We do sell horses from here when they run well so we make a profit. I would say this horse is now worth something between £300,000 and £400,000. Many go to Hong Kong."

The Epsom course is slightly downhill, so the record is unlikely to be broken at any other track, and Stone of Folca just happened to be on his best form that day.

Picture: JOHN HOY

WINNING WAY: Stone of Folca (red) first past the post at Epsom

Mr Best said: "He is four this year. He was a fine two-year-old, then had last year which wasn't too great, and now this.

"And he did it from stall two. At Epsom no-one wins from under stall nine out of the 20 or so. A high stall number is vital to win. So if Stone of Folca had one of the higher stalls, he would have shattered all the records.

"I've always known he was quick, but sometimes he can be very hard to handle. This time though every thing went like a dream.

"I believe not only was it the first time the race has been won from a stall lower than nine, but also the fastest time recorded electronically for any five furlong race. We will almost certainly take our chances at Royal Ascot, in June although that will be a huge step up."

■ **More news at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

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Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

SWEETENER: Cakes of all shapes and sizes were made to keep the hungry street party revellers fed

A TOAST: Glasses and umbrellas were raised during the numerous street celebrations held around Kent

FUN AND GAMES: An impromptu game of street skittles and jenga help keep party-goers entertained

DIAMOND JUBILEE

It might rain on our parade, but nothing will stop us holding a jubilee street party

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

A SEA of red, white and blue washed across the county over the bank holiday weekend as Kent celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style.

Events took place in every corner of Kent, from street parties to special services, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne.

Despite the wet weather, organisers battled on to make sure the once-in-a-lifetime weekend wasn't remembered as a damp squib.

Glenda Morling, who held a party in Halfpenny Close in Maidstone, said: "The rain didn't last long; we had a downpour of about 20 minutes, but everyone had their gazebos up.

"It was a bit cold too, but we carried on through it – it was a really good day."

The community also got together in Medway, with at least 30 street parties taking place in the towns. One of those took place in The Close in Rochester and co-organiser Lynne Last said more than 250 residents joined in.

She said: "It was great to see the community coming together. Seeing the kids playing in the street like we used to was just the best thing.

"We had cake competitions, a best jubilee fancy dress contest, and a raffle to help pay for it all."

The newly-formed Gravesend Women's Institute held a jubilee picnic lunch in Gordon Gardens, and president Hilary Jones said: "Ages ranged from four to 94, and everyone had a good time. There was plenty to eat and drink, including mountains of delicious cakes and those attending donated generously to a collection for the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust."

Friendly street rivalry took place in Stephen's Road in Tunbridge Wells, as residents took on neighbouring Hopwood Gardens in a tug-of-war contest, which the hosts won convincingly 3-0.

The competition was part of a series of special events including a Routemaster bus entertaining the children and a samba band performing.

Organiser Cheryl Harrison said: "It was stupendous. People have been talking about it all week – we're gutted it's over really. It was magical."

As well as the 350 street parties held in Kent and Medway, special Diamond Jubilee beacons were lit around the county on Bank Holiday Monday, joining the Commonwealth in lighting a flame as part of the celebrations.

One of the beacons was at Harris HospisCare in Orpington. In the evening, after holding a jubilee fun day, the beacon was lit by volunteer Joan Sloane and was followed by a rendition of the national anthem.

Fundraising manager Christine Davies said: "This was a fabulous evening to celebrate the jubilee. We were honoured to be an official beacon site and the local community really supported the event."

Queenborough Town Council on the Isle fo Sheppey, held a community fun day at Castle Connections.

And although the weather meant activies has to take place inside, Chrissie Williams said: "It went really well, although the weather was atrocious. We made the most of it despite the traditional British weather – we all had a good time."

CENTRE OF ATTENTION: Parties held up and down the county for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Ramsgate held a tea party for hundreds of children which went down well despite a couple of downpours, with jelly and ice-cream a particular favourite on the menu.

Mayor of Ramsgate Cllr David Green said: "The tea party for more than 300 children achieved a great success, despite the British weather. This was a real town effort, funded by Ramsgate Town Council and Thanet District Council and supported by too many town folk to mention individually."

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GIRLS' POWER: The newly-formed Gravesend Women's Institute enjoyed a day of jubilee celebrations

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

CHEERS, YOUR MAJESTY: Jubilee party in Rodmersham is in full swing as locals toast the Queen

SALUTE: Tunbridge Wells people enjoy themselves, while crowds watch the Harris HospisCare beacon

ACCESS TO PARTY ONLY: Around 350 streets were sealed off around the county for street parties as Kent joined the nation for a right royal knees-up

RIDE ON TIME: A Routemaster bus was at Stephen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, as part of the Queen's celebrations, while villager Joyce Gore helped plant the Diamond Jubilee tree at St Nicholas at Wade

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News

CRIME

Man had more than 24,000 child sex images and films

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A MAN has been sentenced to an extra 14 months in jail after admitting making, possessing and distributing indecent images of children.

Andrew Krone (inset), 39, of St Philip's Avenue, Maidstone, pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court to 21 counts of possessing and distributing child porn – and one count of possessing extreme pornography.

The court heard that after renting a room in Maidstone, he left before paying his rent.

When the landlord was clearing out the room he found indecent images of children, and contacted Kent police.

On searching Krone's laptop and hard drives, which had been left in his room, officers found 23,378 indecent images of children, graded between levels one and five in severity; 10 movies depicting extreme pornography; and 707 indecent movies of children, graded between levels one and five.

Krone was later arrested in Scotland and remanded for assaulting and causing injury and permanent disfigurement to a victim, and a further offence of assault and robbery.

While on remand, he was brought to Maidstone by Kent Police to be arrested and answer additional offences relating to child abuse images.

Krone was subsequently imprisoned for three years and four months in November, 2010, for the assault and robbery offences and on Friday had an additional 14-month term added on to his existing sentence for the indecent image offences.

Krone received 14 months imprisonment for the possession and distribution of indecent images of children and six months for the possession of extreme images, to run concurrently.

He will have to sign on the sex offenders' register for 10 years and the judge also granted a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) which will also run for a decade. Krone was disqualified from working with children.

Det Con Nicky Griffith of the child exploitation investigation team at Kent Police said: "Krone is a dangerous individual who sought to blame other people for his activities, claiming other people had been accessing his computer.

"However, by tracking his activities online, and with the assistance of a number of witnesses the truth was established – that the offences of downloading and distributing indecent images of children were entirely conducted by him."

■ **More news at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

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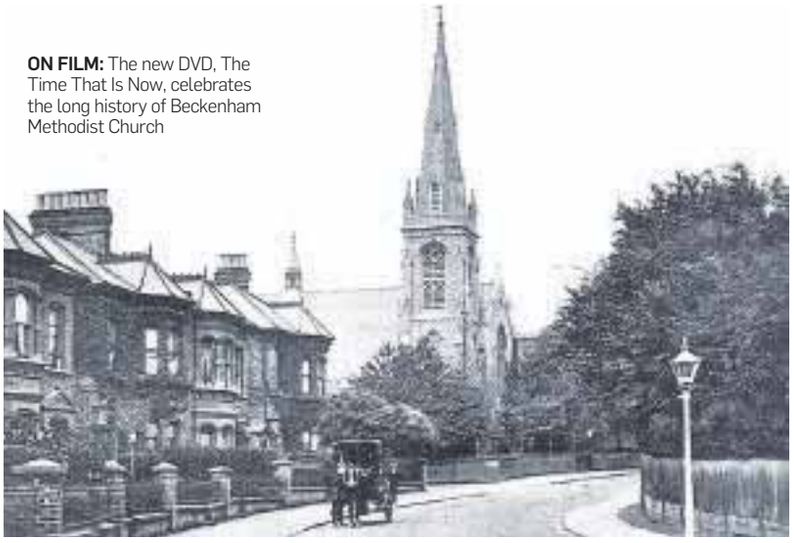

ON FILM: The new DVD, The Time That Is Now, celebrates the long history of Beckenham Methodist Church

Film celebrates 125 years of community worship and history

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE spectacular Beckenham Methodist Church is so steeped in history, a group of locals decided to commit its dramatic past to video.

As it celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, the DVD is finally out after the church approached Spring Park Film Makers to capture its history.

The disc is called The Time That Is Now, and includes a short history and footage of many of the groups associated with the church.

The project was filmed by a number of Spring Park members and edited ready for the first Church Thanksgiving Event in March of this year.

So what has made this house of God so worthy? It was during the 1880s that a decision was made to build a new Wesleyan Church in Beckenham. Inaugural work began in Bromley Road, and in 1887 the people were able to worship in their new church for the first time. This was an event of considerable importance to the Wesleyans in the district.

The church, with its tower and spire and walls of Kentish ragstone, held its first service on September 28 of that year, and it was not long before the debt of £1,500 remaining on the building was paid off, thanks to a generous response to an appeal on the day.

At this time, Beckenham had begun to emerge from its beginnings as a small village in

rural surroundings. The site for the church was secured in 1884. The land appeared to be rich in the type of sand used for building, and Trust minutes of the time tell how the clerk of works had sold the sand excavated by the workmen for his own personal gain.

In March, 1887, a service was held in Bevington Hall when the first memorial stones were laid.

By 1932 the church changed its name to Beckenham Methodist church, a year in which the new town hall was opened by Prince George.

Beckenham itself was growing, and soon become an affluent area. This was reflected in the congregation where Sir Josiah Charles Stamp and his wife came in the 20s. He accepted the honour of Charter Mayor and in 1938 was elevated to Baron. Sadly both he and his wife and oldest son were killed in an air raid when a bomb fell on his house.

Over the years entertainment has been a prominent feature of the church, including radio broadcasts and open-air concerts in Kelsey Park.

The war years saw the hall used as a soldiers' club and in 1946 the Bevington Over 20 club was formed. Many wedding bells rang out in those early years as a result of couples meeting at the church.

The church has changed and grown too, and in 1981 the spire disappeared from the skyline due to decades of pigeon droppings, loose stone, and rusting supports.

Today we see a bright open space, and the church flooded with light from its stained glass windows. A large organ takes centre stage which was a gift from James and William Vanner of Chislehurst in 1887.

During the 1980s and 90s, the church was refurbished and the names of the various rooms were created like the Wesley Lounge, Richmond, and Handsworth Rooms.

There has been an association with Beckenham's leading chamber choir for 30 years. The South London Singers has around 40 members and meet there on Mondays. The uniformed organisations have been strong in the church since the 1920s and a busy community is attached to it.

The £5 DVD is available from the church. For more information call Joan Thompson on 0843 289 9812.

Spring Park Film Makers meet in West Wickham every Thursday. They can be found at springparkfilms.org.uk or call 020 8776 1812.

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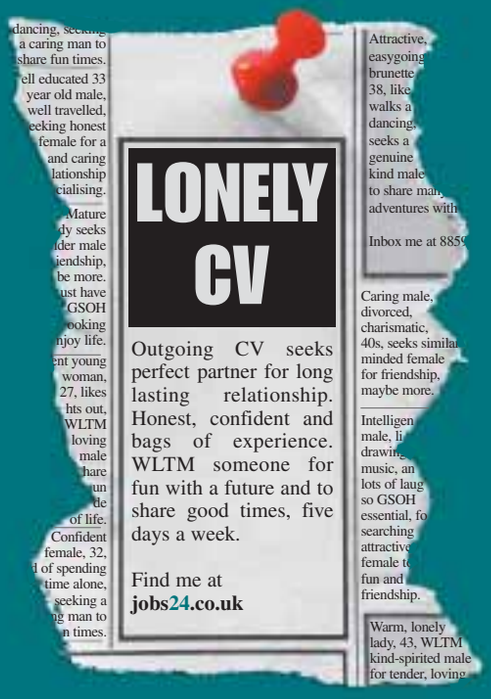

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OPINION

We should all say no to abuse

Too many people suffer domestic abuse, and though action is being taken – everyone must make violence unacceptable, insists **Cllr Mike O'Brien**

FOR far too long, domestic violence has been prevalent in our society.

It is a serious health and criminal justice issue and the statistics are shocking – with a quarter of all women and one in six men affected by domestic abuse in their lifetimes.

This is an issue which blights far too many lives, leads to family breakups and has a long term impact on both women and men.

And it is sadly a leading cause of death amongst women aged 19-44, with two women a week dying from abuse. This is higher than from cancer or road accidents.

In Medway alone, more than 4,000 domestic abuse incidents are reported each year to Kent Police – that equates to an average of 11 reports a day, every day of the year.

But this is probably only a fraction of those affected. We know that many victims of domestic abuse don't call the police, don't know what support they can get, and are not always able to give a name to the abuse they are experiencing.

We need to let victims know they are not alone and there are people there to help.

Over the last 30 years domestic abuse has gone from a subject that was in the main not spoken about, to one that is now a focus of attention not only by the voluntary sector but also by government and other statutory agencies.

Despite the current reductions in public finances, we in Medway are prioritising this because it is too important to ignore. It is also linked to so many other social and community safety issues. For example, there is strong evidence that violence in the home influences youth violence in the streets.

In Medway, two independent domestic advice advocates have been created to assist victims and keep them and their children safe. One is in the specialist domestic violence court at Medway Magistrates Court, the other is in A&E at Medway Maritime Hospital.

Working with the Medway Community Safety Partnership, we are reaching out to all the other partners involved in tackling domestic abuse, including schools and health services so that a multi-agency group can work at senior level to tackle the challenges of cross-agency working.

Under recent changes in the law, the Community Safety Partnership is now responsible for reviewing cases of homicides from abuse, so that we can ensure enough is being done to address this issue and to prevent further abuses.

I recently addressed a service in Rochester Cathedral, given to commemorate victims of domestic abuse. The service was attended by many agencies working to support victims of domestic abuse across Kent and Medway, along with victims and survivors.

More women die from domestic abuse than cancer or road accidents

I recognise the fantastic work done by the voluntary agencies and Medway Domestic Abuse Forum in working with clients to support them, as well as the success of the Freedom programme, which provides information to women on this issue.

There is still a long way to go to ensure all people affected by domestic abuse are able to receive the support they need and for our communities and society to speak out against domestic abuse, to help effect change and make domestic abuse unacceptable not only now but in the future.

We must all say no to domestic abuse.

■ Cllr Mike O'Brien is Medway Council's portfolio holder for community safety and customer contact.

KOS COMMENT

Jubilee's right royal knees-up just the tonic

DESPITE the rain trying to dampen the mood, Kent's jubilee celebrations were even bigger and better than expected.

People embraced the party spirit at more than 350 street parties, using gazebos and umbrellas to shelter from the downpours.

Thousands went to London to enjoy the festivities – and even with the Duke of Edinburgh's health scare, it was clear to see that the Queen and the royal family enjoyed themselves.

No matter what your views on the monarchy, the jubilee was a chance for friends, families and neighbours to be together.

In a time of such economic despair, the extended holiday was a much-needed boost for the country.

Get used to the ban

AS incredible as it seems given the wet weather we are having, it looks like Kent could be one of the few counties still under a hosepipe ban this summer.

Most water companies are keeping the ban in place as underground resources remain low – leaving gardeners hoping the rain stays with us.

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Switched off by power brokers

WE ARE warned there will be a power production shortfall in the not too distant future and that wind farms and solar panels could be our saviour.

Already our manufacturing base has been shifted abroad and our small businesses are being stifled by outside bureaucracy, meanwhile, Germany has kept its manufacturing industries.

They fully realise wind farms and solar panels will not produce the necesary power, therefore they are building a series of coal-fired generating stations – as is China.

So what are we left with?

When gales blow wind turbines have to be swtched off as they may shatter. On the other hand, solar panels only work when the Sun is shining.

The grand centralised dictatorial plan will render us back to foot and donkey power.

In the meantime, we are financially bleeding to death by paying millions of pounds in obedience to un-elected, largely unknown commissioners from beyond our shores.

Meanwhile, our children are being taught in our schools how good this sick union is and how much [they say] we are getting from it. How could we have been so deceived?

J Moore, Tunbridge Wells

Young must be nurtured

KENT Green Party will be discussing practical measures to meet the school places shortfall with speaker Becky Matthews from STEP, the campaign against selective education in Kent, at its June meeting in Wye, near Ashford.

It is alarming that Kent County Council has to find 10,700 primary school places and two new secondary schools in the next four years.

Some 800 children in Kent could not get a place at one of their three preferred primary schools, this April.

Selective schools distributed unevenly across Kent and Medway have made secondary education as much a transport policy as an education policy, with children spending large parts of each day travelling significant distances to and from school.

This could have been avoided if Kent and Medway secondary schools were all comprehensive. Coupled with fundamental inefficiencies in children's services and declining youth services, the overall picture for young people is one of neglect.

There has even been maladministration in the provision of grammar school places in Tunbridge Wells.

It is disturbing that four out of every 10 headteachers say their school buildings are unfit for purpose nationwide.

The Government is adamant academy schools do not have to keep to current healthy school food standards, undoing years of progress.

The Green Party is committed to maintaining education whilst paying off the deficit through a fair tax system.

Stuart Jeffery, Chair of Kent Green Party

Socking it to slow internet

LIKE many people in Thanet, I suffered from a very low broadband download speed, in my case, with BT.

After several fruitless conversations with technicians in India and being given a new hub, nothing improved.

However, a visit from a BT engineer discovered the reason for my slow speed.

The master phone socket, which had been fitted when my house was built, I assume, was unsuitable for modern usage and was replaced.

My download speed has increased substantially, so if you are suffering, as I was, do try changing your phone socket and using ADSL filters in all the phone sockets around the house. This certainly worked in my case.

Paddy Earp, Broadstairs

NO Estuary Airport

Airport flies in face of reality

THERE really is no reason to spend billions on a new Thames airport.

As I see it there are already plenty of alternatives that would reduce the number of road miles travelled to catch a flight, rather than making Kent and Essex the next blighted part of the UK purely on Boris Johnson's need to have a badge put around his neck.

If anyone thinks an airport would mean lots of new long-term jobs they are very much mistaken. Building the thing would require 20,000-plus builders, but most would probably come from cheap European labour or the North, not local.

They would all need homes, so forget any chance of finding a green field or park in Kent – they will have to be built on.

So yes, we would see a local building boom, but then what?

I have been to most airports in the UK and many, if not all, would be better expanded to support larger/more aircraft rather than wiping out Kent. This would shorten road journeys which in these green times we should be encouraging. Why is it necessary for so many of our flights to be from Heathrow or Gatwick? Spread them around the UK.

Indeed, why do we need to encourage more flights in any case? It does not make the UK any more a growth economy.

The manufacturing industry of the UK has all but stopped which is why we end up with 'no-idea politicians' giving us schemes and money wastage projects to make us feel they are doing something.

I don't think you can send an email to the migratory birds to tell them not to come back either. They will be there no matter what.

I don't think anyone really has an idea of what the water or power requirements would be to build the airport or to provide its future needs, as well of those of the area that will be decimated by gross house building.

Forget rain catchment. We would need at least two desalination plants and two power stations. Ahh, but that's jobs isn't it? Well no not really. Labourers, perhaps 1,000, but all the skilled jobs to run either type of plants would come from outside the area. And don't forget once everything has been built where will the on-going jobs for all these people come from?

I hope the sheer cost of this idiotic plan makes people stop.

Whatever the estimate they come up with you'll have to double it. The cost to the destruction of Kent will be wholesale, so we might as well concrete over the South East and be done with it.

This will ruin Kent even more than the current London overspill plans along the Thames corridor. Oh and, of course, those very house building schemes will be under the flight path of the new airport. Yet more sense.

Dave Tutt, Chatham

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Worth going the extra mile to get missing 5p

Q MY employer is paying 40p a mile when I use my own car on business, rather than the recommended 45p a mile.

Are you able to say how I can claim the additional 5p?

A THERE is no legal minimum that an employer has to pay when you use your car for business purposes.

But HM Revenue & Customs has set 45p a mile as the amount you can be reimbursed by your employer without facing any tax bill. This tax exemption applies for the first 10,000 miles of business driving each year. Above this, the taxman will allow 25p a mile.

If your employer pays more, then the surplus is taxable.

Your problem is your employer does not pay the full amount. This means you can claim tax relief on the 'missing' 5p a mile. The cash value of this tax relief depends on the rate at which you yourself pay tax.

For example, if you pay tax at 40pc, the tax relief is worth 2p a mile in your pocket.

But here's another thought. Why does your employer pay 40p a mile? My guess is that this rate was set a few years ago, when the Revenue exemption was itself 40p a mile.

It might be worth telling your boss that the taxman increased the figure to 45p in April last year.

Q IT IS likely that I shall be made redundant. I have been told I am entitled to three months' pay in lieu of notice, a few thousands pounds due under a bonus scheme, and then an additional £20,000 redundancy payment.

The figures I have been given show that tax will be due, yet someone I know who was made redundant from a different company insists he got £30,000 and paid no tax.

How can he get £30,000 and pay no tax, while I stand to get less than £30,000 yet will pay tax?

A THE basic rule is that redundancy payments up to £30,000 are exempt from tax.

However, not all the money you are expecting is classed as redundancy pay.

If your contract of employment entitles you to pay in lieu of notice, this is taxed in the same way as if you had worked normally during the notice period.

Similarly, if you had carried on in your job and received bonuses in the usual way, then that money would have been taxed, too.

All that escapes tax is any payment that is linked only to your redundancy, and not to the notice period, the bonus scheme or anything else – such as holiday pay – that you would have received if the job had lasted.

And that is why only your £20,000 will sidestep the taxman.

Q I REACHED 65 in February. I have a small private pension plan, and I intended to delay drawing the pension in the hope the fund would grow.

However, the pension company says annuity rates for men will be dropping in December, to bring them into line with rates for women. Are you aware of this, and how is it likely to affect me?

A I AM aware of this new rule, which will affect every man who retires after December unless he is lucky enough to be in one of the few remaining final salary pension schemes.

Everyone who saves for retirement in a 'defined contribution' scheme should understand that they have their own individual pension pot.

When they reach retirement, that pot is used to buy an annuity – a pension for life. Annuities are based on how long the pension provider thinks you will live.

Pension providers have always given men a better annuity rate because men die younger than women, bringing the annuity to an end.

The EU did not like this. Officials in Brussels regarded it as sex discrimination, so they are making it illegal from December.

Annuity rates change frequently, so nobody can predict the exact impact.

As an example, though, £10,000 would currently buy a 65-year-old man a flat rate pension of £587 a year from Legal & General, while a woman would get £562. Everyone in the industry expects male rates to fall at the end of the year.

Q I HAVE used up my Isa allowance, but would like to put £2,000 into an instant access savings account. Which pays the best interest?

A THE Online Saver account from Coventry Building Society (www.coventrybuildingsociety.co.uk) pays 3.15pc on £1 upwards, with no notice needed for withdrawals.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Clearer information is needed for customers should bank collapse

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney24 editor

THE body behind the financial sevices savings safety net has urged banks to give clearer information to customers about how much of their cash will be protected if the provider goes bust.

Under plans outlined by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), financial providers are to be compelled to display notices in branches and on their websites in a bid to make people more aware deposits of up to £85,000 are protected if a bank goes bust.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), which protects consumers when banks fail, said the plans were a step in the right direction, but it urged firms to go beyond the FSA's minimum requirements.

Building societies and credit unions will also need to display posters and stickers, and foreign banks with branches in the UK which are not covered by the scheme have to state this as well as saying which other national scheme is providing protection.

"The banking crisis shows how important it is for consumers to have clear information about FSCS protection," said FSCS chief executive Mark Neale.

"We never again want to witness the run on a bank because people do not know their money is protected.

"Since then, the industry has improved the quality of information it gives to consumers about FSCS.

"However, it needs to do much more to provide clear, accurate information about the protection we provide. This is essential to building consumer confidence, and is not limited to deposits. It is something that is normal in other parts of the world."

The FSCS protects consumers if banks, building societies or credit unions go under. The safety net has paid out more than £26 billion in compensation to more than 4.5 million people since 2001.

SAFE: More needs to be done to protect customers' cash if provider goes bust

"We have been working with major firms in a bid to get them to go the extra mile in building awareness of the scheme," said Mr Neale.

"We are grateful for their support and hope they will lead the way. We encourage all banks, building societies and credit unions to have stickers on display, posters and information in branch, and on their websites.

"Go the extra mile. Tell consumers about the FSCS. It is good for consumer confidence. And that is good for the industry, too."

The FSCS recently launched a £4 million publicity campaign in a bid to raise the scheme's profile, but it has since acknowledged that awareness has not been raised to the levels hoped. The scheme covers savings up to £85,000 for single accounts and £170,000 for joint accounts if an institution goes under.

While the scheme covers deposits held with UK banks and subsidiaries of foreign banks which operate in the UK, it does not cover money held with UK branches of European banks, which are covered by the relevant compensation scheme in the country where the bank has its head office.

The compensation limit applies to money lost per banking licence and not per individual brand, meaning consumers who want to remain within the limit have to know which banking group owns any individual brand.

■ To find out which licence covers which bank or building society, visit www.mymoney24.co.uk.

Falling house prices mean many homeowners may be due thousands in inheritance tax rebates

THOUSANDS of Britons may have paid more inheritance tax (IHT) on residential property than they should have.

IHT – which is based on the value of the property at point of death – can be reclaimed if the property sells for less within four years.

With house prices falling by more than 10 per cent over the last four years, tax specialists at NFU Mutual said that up to £90 million in tax could be reclaimable. This equates to an average rebate of £4,260 among an estimated 21,000 estates that included residential property over the past four years.

People who inherited between June, 2008, and February, 2009, and between June, 2010, and August, 2011, are the most likely to be eligible to get money back.

"Many people don't realise they can claim back IHT if the property they inherit sells for less than it was valued at during probate," said NFU Mutual's Sean McCann.

"And with house prices generally falling over the last four years, thousands of people could still be able to claim back any such overpayment."

NFU Mutual's calculations were made using a combination of IHT breakdowns from HM Revenue & Customs and monthly house price data produced by the Land Registry.

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Lack of credit and withdrawal of overdrafts crippling small firms

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BRITAIN'S small businesses are continuing to suffer because of a three-year lending drought and many are unable to obtain credit at any cost, the Bank of England has warned.

And to make matters worse, many are having their overdraft facilities withdrawn, the BoE says – meaning a cashflow problem is much more likely to mean closure.

Current figures reveal that more than 50 firms across the UK close each day – and Kent businesses say the lack of bank capital is holding back expansion plans that would create jobs, stimulate the economy and increase cashflow.

Some firms that managed to get a loan said they had seen the interest rate increased, while fees levied on loans had also gone up, the BoE's report on business conditions found.

The report states: "Some firms had responded to tighter credit conditions by seeking alternative forms of finance, from wealthy individuals or institutional investors, such as pension funds.

'DOUBLE-DIP DANGER': Pam Loch

"It had become harder to secure long-term funding from banks, increasing the frequency of re-negotiations and attendant charges."

More than 50 companies every day are collapsing, according to a separate study. A total of 1,564 failed in April, and numbers are far higher among smaller firms, the survey by information firm Experian found. Of the total, it said 688 employed 10 people or fewer.

Toby Perkins, the shadow small business minister, said: "Businesses are going under every day. Too many are struggling to get the finance they need to grow and take on extra employees."

He also slammed the Government's answer to the credit crunch, the National Loans Guarantee Scheme, as "failing to make a difference".

Christopher Shaw, chief executive of alternative finance firm Platform Black, said: "This latest Bank report confirms once and for all what any company director knows. Small and medium-sized firms are not getting credit and, worse still, are having their overdrafts cut or pulled. In the rare cases where credit is available, it is getting more expensive.

"We are experiencing a mixed reaction at the moment to confidence in the economy from our clients, contacts and suppliers. There is still a great deal of caution and we have been involved in advising on restructurings again where businesses are aiming to reduce their headcount. However, we do have many clients who are recruiting again and recognising it could be a good time to expand through acquisitions or mergers rather than sitting still."

Pam Loch is managing partner of Tunbridge Wells-based Loch Associates Employment Lawyers as well as being president of the West Kent Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

She said: "From my involvement with businesses, I've spoken with directors and business-owners who are keen to expand their business but simply can't access the capital to do so, despite the Bank base rate being the lowest it's been in decades. The reluctance of financial institutions to lend to businesses due to economic uncertainty is quickly becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy in itself for a double-dip recession.

"In our capacity as employment lawyers, we're aware that clients still feel there is a need to reduce their overheads as they face rising costs. The Government's pledge to inject £75 billion into the economy is a timely boost to business confidence, but we do need even more measures put in place to help the SMEs at the heart of the economy."

TRANSPORT

Travel firm set to cut carbon emmissions

CHALKWELL Coach Hire & Tours is carrying out a full commercial trial on Energenics fuel-saving additive Envirox across the whole of its fleet of 61 coaches and buses.

An additive dosing unit will be installed at the company's main depot in Murston, near Sittingbourne, and the bulk diesel fuel-storage tank will be treated with Envirox for an initial nine-month period.

Envirox is based on a well-known oxidation catalyst used widely in catalytic converters. The material has been re-engineered using nano-technology to allow it to be delivered as a diesel fuel treatment. This ensures a cleaner burn within the combustion chamber, resulting in improved fuel efficiency and lower emissions.

Clive Eglinton, managing director, said: "As well as the potential financial benefits, we see this as a means of improving our environmental performance. We are targeting an average fuel saving of 4 per cent, equivalent to 58 tonnes of CO_2 on an annual basis. Already 28 vehicles in our fleet have diesel particulate filters fitted, but we expect to remove a further 27kg of particulate emissions per year from the rest of the fleet through the use of Envirox."

Mike Attfield, of Energenics, said: "We are delighted to welcome Chalkwell as a customer. This will be a valuable opportunity to validate Envirox in a mixed coaching and bus operation."

AWARDS

Now is the time to ensure your business talent is recognised

A BUSINESS-awards event has been launched at a gala reception.

Bromley Business Awards 2012, the second in the annual series organised by South London Business, was launched at Biggin Hill airport, the title sponsor for this venture that rewards and celebrates dynamic and innovative businesses.

Robert Walters, business-development manager at Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, said the airport company was strongly in favour of the purpose of the awards and pleased to be associated with the new season series as principal sponsor.

"The goal is to promote business in Bromley and to highlight those companies that are taking extra steps to help provide employment and prosperity while demonstrating outstanding innovation and skills," said Walters.

More information on the 2012 Bromley Business awards can be found at www.bromleybusinessawards.co.uk or on 0208 253 4256.

Forms can be requested by emailing awards@southlondonbusiness.co.uk; closing date is Friday, September 7. The awards will be announced and presented on Thursday, October 25.

LAUNCHED: Nominate for an award now

ECO-FRIENDLY

Coach-carrier claims green tourism award

EUROTUNNEL has been awarded for its commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of coach-carriers.

At the 2012 Coach Tourism Awards Eurotunnel Le Shuttle won the inaugural Coach Tourism Green Award.

The awards brought together more than 360 professionals and members of the coach tourism community, and Eurotunnel's prize was awarded by readers of Coach Monthly.

Eurotunnel is the only cross-Channel operator to carry out an annual carbon audit and has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 56 per cent since 2006. Le Shuttle continues to innovate to save energy, protect air quality, manage waste and water and control noise.

Jo Willacy, Eurotunnel commercial director, said: "Eurotunnel Le Shuttle is delighted to be recognised for the continued efforts of its teams to minimise the impact of its operations on the environment and to offer passengers the greenest way to cross the Channel by coach.

"Our latest innovation, which is proving very popular, is an eco-comparison tool that allows coach operators to calculate their carbon savings when taking Le Shuttle."

The editor of Coach Monthly, Stuart Render, said: "Eurotunnel Le Shuttle plays a key role in delivering a high quality of service to coach operators across the UK."

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FOCUS ON CHARITY

A FOCUS group has shown its support for charity.

Kent Construction Focus Group, which holds regular breakfast meetings, presented Pilgrims Hospices with a cheque for £2,300 raised on a sponsored cycle-ride between Pilgrims Hospice sites.

KCFG is a forum of Kent companies involved in the construction, design and development sector – its aim is to highlight the construction expertise available in the county and to promote the best of building and civil-engineering projects.

The next meeting is at the London Golf Club on Tuesday with county-council leader Paul Carter. Further details are available on the KCFG website www.kcfg.co.uk.

Skills drought the biggest barrier to recruiting staff

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A LACK of skilled applicants continues to plague businesses, according to a new report.

The latest quarterly Tracking UK Recruitment report by professional staffing recruitment consultancy Barclay Meade shows more than half (54 per cent) of firms citing candidate skill shortage as their biggest barrier to recruitment.

According to the report, the first quarter of 2012 saw a 10 per cent rise in the number of local firms whose plans to strengthen their workforce were hampered by a dearth of candidates possessing the skills required to fill a vacancy.

Meanwhile, more than a third of bosses (34 per cent) in the South East feel the expense of hiring new staff is prohibitively high, a rise of 19 per cent from Q4 2011.

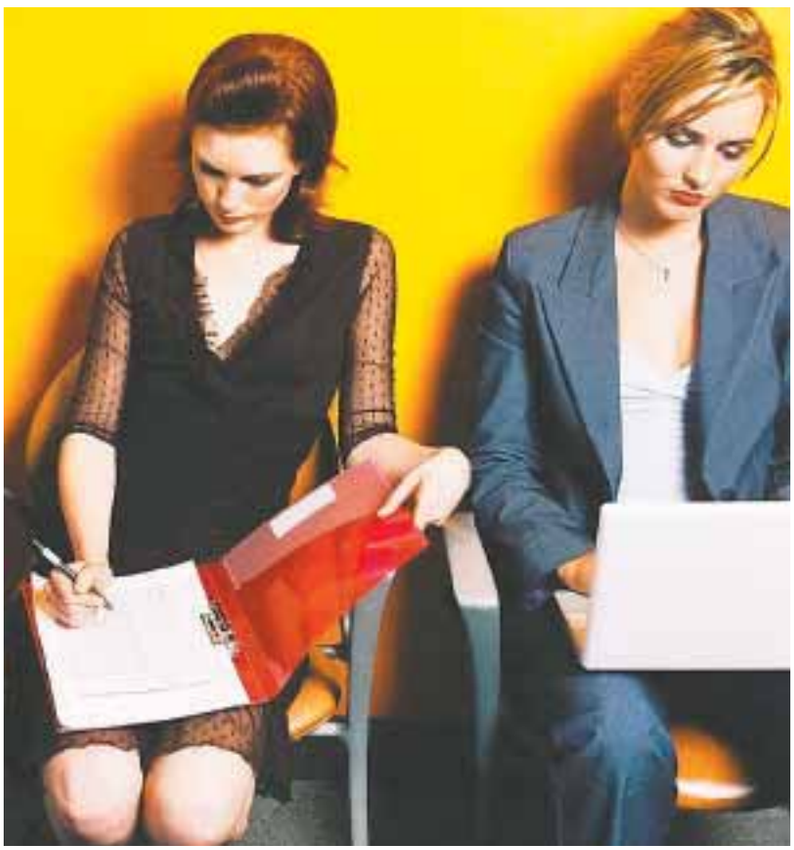
But, despite this, the report by Barclay Meade – part of the AIM-listed recruitment business Matchtech Group PLC – revealed almost two out of five (37 per cent) bosses in the South East were more confident about recruiting than they were in the previous quarter. Just 7 per cent declared themselves 'less confident'.

Overall hiring levels among firms in the region dipped slightly throughout the three months to March. Just over 40 per cent of business-owners said recruitment levels were similar to those before the financial crisis began in September 2007, although the number operating under a recruitment freeze rose from 17 per cent in Q4 2011 to 22 per cent, the highest level of any region in the UK and considerably higher than the national average of 13 per cent.

Among those firms in the South East that do expect to be hiring in the next quarter, 37 per cent are planning to take on administrative staff; almost a quarter (24 per cent) aim to recruit graduates; and one in 10 expects to appoint senior managers. Encouragingly, two-thirds of firms in the region said recruitment activity was to support business growth plans.

Barclay Meade's Tracking UK Recruitment 2012 Q1 report also revealed:

- Two-thirds of businesses in the UK feel restricted by the Government's employment legislation and would like to see changes made to help them fulfil labour solutions.
- While experts continue to debate the future economic landscape, the general consensus among the UK business community is that the outlook is hopeful. Almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of firms are 'cautiously optimistic' about trading conditions during the next six months.
- The expense of hiring new staff is an increasing problem for employers, with 52 per cent reporting it as a barrier to recruitment in the first three months of 2012, up from 20 per cent in Q4 2011.



WRITE-OFFS? More than half of firms said skills shortages were their biggest barrier to recruitment

Nigel Lynn, managing director of Barclay Meade, said: "The jobs market in the South East took a small backwards step in the first three months of 2012, and the region is home to the largest number of firms operating under a recruitment freeze.

"But the findings from our report suggest their plans and growth ambitions are being hindered by a lack of adequately-skilled staff, which is a huge concern. Investing in talent can improve the commercial value of any organisation, but this is obviously dependent on that talent being available in the first place.

"Yet despite hiring activity falling, business outlook for the next six months remains positive across the region, illustrated by the increase in the number who are optimistic about trading conditions over the next six months."

OLYMPICS

Planning ahead is the way to go

WITH the Olympic torch relay making its way around the UK, the final countdown to the London Games is well and truly on.

Which means now is the time employers should pre-empt potential difficulties by planning ahead, says Melissa Edmond, right, of leading regional law firm Furley Page.

"The Olympics have the potential to lift employees' spirits at a time when the economic climate threatens morale and it would be a shame to miss such a great opportunity," said Edmond, a solicitor in the employment-law team. "Time off and time-wasting are likely to be the main issues employers encounter.

"Holiday requests will be high as the Games fall within the busy summer period and staff may request time off to volunteer if lucky enough to have been selected as one of the 70,000 Games Makers."

Edmond will be cheering on the torch relay when it passes the offices of Furley Page in Canterbury in July.

She advised that consideration should be given to how holiday policies would be operated and the easiest method to avoid complaints might be a first-come-first-served basis. When it comes to volunteering, employees have no legal right to time off work for this, so employers may ask staff to take annual or unpaid leave.

Edmond added: "Holiday requests and unauthorised absences may be minimised if employers provide television coverage for key events – subject to having the appropriate licence, of course – or if employees are allowed to watch the Games on their computers.

"Such arrangements will hopefully foster a positive atmosphere in the workplace, but reasonable limits should be set out.

"It would be unrealistic to suggest that the biggest sporting event in the world will not cause employers any disruption. However, planning ahead should help.

"To be the host of the Games is a once-in-a-lifetime event and the opportunity to engage the workforce and encourage motivation through it should not be missed."

Training, courses and careers

Bluewater college for students shopping for computer and engineering courses

A NEW university technical college is set to open in Kent called UTC Bluewater, but its students won't be specialising in shopping.

Some 15 UTCs around the UK have been approved by the Government, and each one will specialise in a particular area.

For instance, Warwick UTC, supporterd by Jaguar Land Rover will concentrate on engineering. And Heathrow UTC with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic behind them, will do aviation engineering.

UTC Bluewater, sponsored by Eurostar and Bluewater, will be doing computer science and engineering.

It has been put forward by the Leigh Technology Academy in Dartford.

Leigh Academies Trust chief executive Frank Green, said: "The range of people and organisations we have been able to bring together across our community have been united in the need for the development of a high quality, technically based education.

"It will provide the level of technical skills as well as academic learning required for the regeneration of the manufacturing base in the borough of Dartford and in Kent Thameside, which has such a proud history of pioneering scientific and technological developments.

BLUEWATER: Famous for shops, it is now home to a university technical college

"The opportunity for young people, both girls and boys, to make a change at 14 or 16 to an outstanding technical education will provide more choice for them so more students can access the education and training that best suits their talents.

"We see this as an opportunity to be a significant part of the re-building of the manufacturing capacity as the development of the vast business and commercial space around Ebbsfleet is developed.

"We have deliberately made manufacturing and computer engineering the two pillars of our UTC, as these are essential areas for development and growth in the 21st century."

The UTC is being supported by Bluewater, Eurostar, Kenard Engineering, NWKC, Greenwich University, London Chamber of Commerce, RK International, and Caterham Cars.

The idea is the colleges will work with local employers and universities to train more than 20,000 young Brits as engineers and scientists, alongside the usual academic qualifications.

Education minister Lord Hill said: "There is a lot of enthusiasm from employers, universities, pupils and parents for high quality rigorous technical education.

"They provide more choice for children as well as helping provide the kind of highly-skilled technicians our economy needs. The response from employers to UTCs speaks for itself."

But Christine Blower, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said 14 was too young, and added: "Separating 'technical' or 'vocational' education from mainstream schools will lead to a two-tier system with technical schools being seen as the poor cousin."

The ages that will use UTCs are 14-19, rather than 11-18 as in a school, and there is no entrance test for the up to 800 students.

Mr Green said: "They are a radical solution to the inadequate number of technicians and engineers. Students spend two days a week on practical study and three days a week on academic study linking the hand with the mind.

"It is quite intensive. It significantly increases the amount of teaching time, adding a whole extra year of instruction for every two years a student is in the UTC, and extra-curricular activities are compulsory."

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Free local history training event for teachers as online unit goes live

A NEW partnership initiative is aiming to make teaching local history more engaging for teachers in Kent.

The Canterbury Local Heritage Partnership is hosting a continuing professional development event for teachers on Wednesday, June 27, at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The free half-day event is aimed at sharing best practice for local history studies, bringing together experts from English Heritage, the Historical Association and other partners with teachers and students from four local schools to showcase new ideas and approaches to teaching local history.

The training session will include an expert-led local history continuing professional development session, to coincide with the launch of an online unit on local history created by Andrew Wrenn and English Heritage's education team.

"Teachers often create their teaching plans in relative isolation, and particularly when you are teaching a subject like local history where there may not be quite as many resources available, it can be quite challenging to create an engaging and stimulating scheme of work," said English Heritage's regional education co-ordinator, Rachel Hudson, who is based at Dover Castle.

"This workshop day will not only give teachers the chance to see some new approaches, but also to talk to other teachers and pupils about what they enjoyed most about their local history studies, which should provide inspiring ideas to implement, both in and outside the classroom.

"Whilst facts may change from town to town, the techniques and ideas can be applied in any location."

The workshop runs from 10am-12.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend can contact Rachel Hudson on rachel.hudson@english-heritage.org.uk or call 01304 204475.

Interns on the fast track at GForces

BEARSTED-based GForces, a web management company for the UK's automotive sector, has received glowing feedback from work-placement students who have taken part in the company's internship scheme.

GForces takes on undergraduates and students from nearby schools, universities and colleges, enrolling them in its Training Academy to gain experience in a wide range of disciplines, including web marketing, graphic design, web development, project and account management, and content and project support.

The academy gives students breadth and depth of real-world experience, and in some cases those who do well are offered full-time positions.

The new extension to its Caring Lane HQ has enabled GForces to step up the work of its Training Academy.

Some 23 young people have been given internships at GForces over the past 12 months. Many of the internships have been organised in co-operation with the Kent Educational Business Partnership – an organisation which seeks to bring education and business together to create the next-generation of skilled employees.

Intern Camille Thompson: "The internship taught me a huge amount, and best of all, after the month was up I was offered a full-time position."

Schools & education

Pupils organised for competition

A PROTOTYPE computer-based organiser designed and marketed by four Year 10 students has won a business competition run by the Connexions career advice service.

The Big Business Pitch was run at The Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School Federation in Ramsgate and it generated a range of interesting and innovative ideas from the young competitors.

Staff member Eunice Scott-Smith co-ordinated the event. She explained: "Each group had to produce an A4 poster for their product or service, a financial statement, a marketing plan, and a prototype.

"During the competition weeks Connexions provided motivational speakers including Moira Cameron, the first woman Beefeater at the Tower of London, Paul Chandler who is the marketing manager for Scalextric at Margate-based Hornby Hobbies, and Beverley Aitken from Maidstone-based chartered accountants Day, Smith and Hunter.

"Six teams made it through to the school final where they had to present their product or service to a panel of judges and their peers.

"The judges were very complimentary of the standard reached in a very short time.

"The winning team produced a fantastic product with a very slick Powerpoint presentation and fielded numerous questions from the floor. Well done to all the teams who worked so hard."

The Big Business Pitch winning team who developed the organiser was made up of Kate Weedy, Hannah Blount, Charlotte Crabb, and Louisa Webb.

Broadcast students hit right note with 'professional' music show

BROADCAST Media students at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) have filmed a live music show at the famous Maidstone TV Studios.

Unsigned Live, a 30-minute studio production which showcased local bands, was recorded in the same professional facilities that are usually home to major network programmes, such as ITV1's Take Me Out.

Second year students on the broadcast media course, which is based at Maidstone Studios, created the show as part of a university project. They collaborated with BA (Hons) creative arts for theatre and film students at UCA Rochester who made the sets and props.

Senior lecturer for broadcast media Simon Welsford, said: "Unsigned Live was a huge success. I was really impressed with the students' attention to detail, not just on the day of filming, but also with the bands they managed to attract, the accompanying website they made, and the buzz they managed to create.

"Basing the course at Maidstone Studios offers a unique setting for our students and enables them to make professional productions.

LIVE: The show was made at Maidstone Studios

"It is impossible for this to feel like a student project because they are using a working gallery and studio, the crew have radio contact, even the presenter and bands have their own dressing rooms – it's a full-on television production which just happens to be made by students.

"We are very excited and fortunate to be able to make use of these facilities for our course."

You can watch the full show plus behind-the-scenes clips at: http://unsignedlive.weebly.com/episodes.

Business advice for IT youngsters

SHEPPEY students have been receiving top tips from a London IT firm about how to get ahead in business.

Nine BTEC ICT practitioner students from Canterbury College at Sheppey took part in a series of mock interviews for Norland Managed Services, designed to give them the edge in the jobs market.

They had to get suited and booted for the interviews, which took place at the college's Bridge Road campus.

Norland's IT director Barry Robinson and recruitment manager Kevin Ward travelled down from the capital to grill the 'candidates' before offering them constructive feedback and helping to improve their CVs.

The students' tutor Clare Baker-Harrison said: "The session was really useful for the students and gave them a valuable insight into the working world.

"Norland were very impressed by how seriously they took it."

The students were equally enthusiastic. Joe Risbridger, 19, said: "It not only gave me experience but helped me to realise the area of IT I wish to work in after finishing this course.

"The feedback I received from Barry and Kevin was excellent.

"They reviewed my CV and helped me understand interview areas I am good at and those that need to be developed."

Norland has been working with Canterbury College at Sheppey for several years.

Previously, the students had travelled to London to visit Norland's company head office in Southwark.

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DEVELOPING SKILLS: Liz Field

FINANCIAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

Diversity is key to support the young

TO help Kent's young people into jobs, the Financial Skills Partnership has responded to what it calls a "pressing need" to diversify the industry.

Alan Milburn, the Deputy Prime Minister's social mobility adviser, has released a report stating that more should be done to open professions to young people from poorer backgrounds.

His report says that too many professions recruit from a narrow range of universities and regions.

The Financial Skills Partnership has now launched Directions – a free online careers destination for young people to gain an insight into the financial sector and pursue career opportunities with leading organisations.

It helps them to find out about opportunities in the sector, which includes everything from one-day work experience through to full placements, apprenticeships and school and college programmes.

The project is accompanied by a range of outreach activities for those in education and career advisers at which employers can talk about the work of the sector and where young people from all walks of life can be inspired to consider the sector as a future employer.

Liz Field, CEO of the Financial Skills Partnership, said: "It certainly is true that a lot of progress has to be made. As well as achieving the wider goal of increased social mobility, and helping to reduce youth unemployment in Kent, industry sectors such as financial services will also improve the level of service they provide to their customers if they recruit from a wider range of young people.

"The finance industry has already begun to respond to the pressing need to diversify the industry's recruitment channels. However, the key to creating significant change is tackling the misconception that finance is an elitist sector.

"The introduction of the Directions Portal has meant that young people from all backgrounds have access to working opportunities that will open doors for their careers."

UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

Students are the business in latest recruitment drive

THE University of Greenwich is investing in a major research and enterprise programme to forge closer links with business and give students the best possible start to a career.

As part of the recruitment drive just announced for up to 20 new research professors, five world-class candidates are being sought to work with the university's international business school.

The school says its role is to form a "strong and distinctive international presence" for the university, which has strong links with central London's business community, by "researching the potential within companies for ground-breaking corporate reform and responsibility".

Another professor will lead the development of workforce and economic development policy, working closely with partners in London and the Thames Gateway.

A third post will help develop the university business school's leadership, managerial and behavioural capability.

And there are also roles for research into supply-chain management in areas including carbon reduction and foods and in the rapidly-growing field of network science, applying online expertise to social analysis.

In addition, the university is offering 50 places for fully-funded PhD research studentships.

The investment programme is being led by Professor David Maguire, the university's vice-chancellor, who took up his post in October.

He said: "Greenwich is one of London's leading universities, with three iconic campuses, wonderful staff, a diverse student body and dynamic plans for the future. If you've got energy, ability and ideas, plus a strong track record as a researcher, we want to hear all about you."

ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

Budding artists show off their art and design skills

AN exhibition entitled New Directions sees, for the first time, Rochester Independent College A-level art and design students taking over the exhibition space at The Deaf Cat Gallery and Coffee Bar in Rochester high street.

The exhibition focuses on the achievements of students in a range of disciplines, recognising the sheer quality of students' work and the expertise of their lecturers.

The stunning array shows work from all art disciplines offered at the college: from textiles to graphics, fine art and ceramics to life drawing and photography.

"The aim of New Directions is to celebrate the excellent art and design work produced by our A-level students at Rochester Independent College," said Jackie Clark, director of visual arts at RIC.

"Using an exhibition space in the heart of the community will provide visitors with a unique insight into the highly-individual work produced by students from the art and design area.

"An exhibition of this kind can have a dramatic impact on students' future careers in the creative industries."

Head of art Kelly Flatman said: "We are delighted that this year we have the highest number of A-level students from RIC ever going to study art and design-related courses at universities such as UCA, Central St Martins, Edinburgh and the Architectural Association School of Architecture."

New Directions is open to the public between 9.30am and 5pm from Tuesday, June 12, to Sunday, June 24.

CBI

Firms hope for recruitment but there's caution

ALMOST a third of companies in the private sector expect to recruit staff in the coming year, although one in five predicted cuts.

The figures come after research among more than 300 firms by the CBI and recruitment firm Harvey Nash.

CBI director general John Cridland said: "Businesses have been creating jobs where they can over the past few months, and it looks as though that steady trend of employment growth in the private sector is set to continue.

"But hiring plans are cautious, and pay awards in particular remain low as businesses look to make sure they stay competitive in tumultuous times.

"We have to accept this constraint as the new normal – we will only be able to afford to pay ourselves more in the long term by improving productivity and competing more effectively around the world.

"The Government and businesses must deliver on targeted action to help young people who are out of work in order to increase employers' appetite to hire them."

Two-thirds of firms said employment regulation was the biggest threat to labour market competitiveness.

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Dawn Coady, Group Recruitment Manager, Prospect house, Rouen Road, Norwich, NR1 1RE or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk

Senior Sales Support, Archant KOS Media

Permanent role, based in Smeeth Nr Ashford

Archant KOS Media is looking for a Senior Sales Support to join the Commercial Team. As Senior Sales Administrator you will be accountable for the smooth running of this team. You will need to be organised and self motivated. Able to work well under pressure, you will be required to move from different areas of responsibility throughout the day to meet the demands of the business.

Knowledge of excel to intermediate / advanced level along with IT skills using word, outlook,power point etc. Basic knowledge of the web will also be required.

All applicants must be flexible in their approach to the day to day tasks, remain professional at alltimes and work well under pressure.

In return Archant Ltd offers a competitive basic salary, pension scheme and a generous range of other benefits.

Due to the location applicants will need to have their own transport.

Full in house system training will be provided.

Please e-mail your up to date CV,along with a covering letter to
Simon Thompson, HR Officer,
Archant Lifestyle simon.thompson@archant.co.uk

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More recruitment vacancies for the public sector can be found on the next page...

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Facilities Assistant/Caretaker **Ref: P0061**

Salary: £10,384 to £18,066
(dependent on qualifications and experience) per annum
37 hours per week
One Year Fixed Term Contract
Maidstone

We are looking to recruit a hard working individual to participate in the day to day operational duties, assisting in the smooth running of the college and its properties. Your responsibilities will include providing a clean and safe environment for users of the campus building and grounds on all sites, and assist in other general facilities duties as required.

Closing date: 12 noon Wednesday 13 June 2012

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

MidKent College

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Margate)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week
Specialist interest in Bariatric nursing desirable
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact
Carolyn Flegg - Senior Staff Nurse on 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Ashford)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development

Senior Staff Nurse (Margate)

Full or part-time position available
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Minimum 3 years post registration/equivalent experience
Evidence of continual professional development
Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent

Staff Nurse (Margate)

Part-time position available
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
To discuss all these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit please contact
Mary Guarnieri - Matron on 01843 234252

Staff Nurse - Flexi Bank - Endoscopy (Margate)

Registered Nurse 1st Level - endoscopy trained
To discuss this opportunty or to arrange an informal visit please contact
Dennis Sutton - Theatre Manager on 07807 829623 or Linda McCafferty - Endoscopy Nurse on 07786 173796

Closing date for all applications - 18th June 2012

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road
Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site.
We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Ward Sister (Margate)

Full time position available
Closing date for applications -18th June 2012
Qualifications Registered Nurse 1st Level. Minimum 5 years post registration/equivalent experience. Evidence of continual professional development. Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent. Degree desirable.
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact
Mary Guarnieri - Matron on 01843 234252
For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG.
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com
The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

Market Research Interviewers

Earn £53.65-£71.25 for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay.

Interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm, working a minimum 3 days per week, no previous experience – full training given. No selling. Good standard of English required. You must have your own land line and/or broadband and your own transport. To apply call the number below, quoting ref: 7007ZZ.

Call **020 8433 4490**
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Teach English at Home

- Could you host & teach one or two students (junior or adult)?
- Must have TEFL or recognized teaching qualification
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- Teaching materials, full support and training workshop provided

For further information call:
01227 722882
ilh www.ilh.com

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

MINI SCHOOL INFORMATION MANAGER REQUIRED

Contract: Permanent (37 hours, 39 weeks per year)
Salary: Kent Range 4 (£16,145 - £16,961) pro rata per annum

We are seeking a highly competent Mini School Information Manager to take a lead within a mini school in helping with the daily needs of students. Responsibilities will include the monitoring and day to day management of student attendance and performance. Other duties will involve the administration of payment and permission slips for trips and outdoor activities as well as managing the resources within the mini school.

You will have strong inter-personal and communication skills with experience in an educational setting, ideally working with young people of secondary school age. You will have a flexible approach to work, able to prioritise tasks quickly whilst ensuring that the welfare of students remains your highest priority. Knowledge of SIMS or other IT Management Information Systems, whilst not essential, would be an advantage.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Contact:
Mr D Jones, Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: martin.jones@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Closing Date: Tuesday 19th June 2012

achievement for all

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spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site.
We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Medical Secretary - Full time (Margate)

Closing date for applications 18th June, 2012.

Qualifications: Maths and English (GCSE or Equivalent). Two years experience working in a medical environment. Audio Typing experience essential.

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Paul Parish 01843 234555 x 63316

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd., Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG. Telephone: 01843 234556. Fax: 01843 296333. E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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Bradstow School

Creative | Committed | Enthusiastic | Resilient

Creative, committed and enthusiastic
TEACHERS
do amazing things at
BRADSTOW SCHOOL

If you would like to join our team we are confident that you will find this the most satisfying job you have ever undertaken.

Bradstow is an exciting and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is set in 13 acres of parkland within a few hundred metres of the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We endeavour to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, many of whom have associated challenging behaviours. We have achieved international recognition for our leadership, supporting our people and for our developments in Functional Communication and Positive Behaviour Support.

Experience is not essential. What makes the difference at Bradstow is the professional and personal qualities and values of the people who are employed here. What it is that you as an individual have to offer our young people to enable them to feel safe, unconditionally valued and engaged.

You will be provided with an extended and ongoing package of induction and training. We believe that staff training and professional development, together with the other staff support systems in place, are essential in our specialised field and are at the core of the success of the school.

All teachers are fully trained and supported in Gentle Teaching, TEACCH, Prospect Positive Behaviour Support, PECS and other augmentative communication systems, as well as being provided with a wide range of other specialist skills. You will also be encouraged and supported to extend your skills and knowledge by undertaking further Degree and Diploma studies.

In addition to judging Bradstow 'Outstanding' in all appropriate categories, OFSTED 2009 said,

"The curriculum and the quality of teaching and support are exceptional"

"It is to the tremendous credit of a highly skilled and well-qualified team of teachers and support staff that they enable pupils to overcome and cope with the substantial learning and emotional barriers that they face"

"Bradstow is a very complex organization and a centre of excellence in its own field"

If you would like to join our team and help us to continue to transform the lives of these children and their families, please contact us. Working at Bradstow will be challenging and you will need to be committed to the needs of the young people and the school. In return we offer you a highly rewarding and satisfying career which will both develop your skills and prepare you for senior and/or specialist leadership posts as your career develops - with quite a bit of fun thrown in as well!

For SEN specialists, the second SEN point may be available.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

Applications should be received by 12 noon, Friday 22nd June 2012.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

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or email **sallie.payne@archant.co.uk**

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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/AS/0153/2012 - Proposed development at Woodleas Farm, Goldwell Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7DX.

RH Butler Ltd (Skip Hire) is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for proposed change of use from a skip depot to a waste transfer depot with construction of a new building. Provision of a portacabin and a weighbridge. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING & CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/MA/0185/2012 - Proposed development at Invicta House, Sessions House Square, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Kent County Council is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission to install solar PV panels on three sides of the external roof area. The solar array would be a 49.35 kWp area. This would have 210 x 235 watt PV panels. The proposed development would affect the setting of a nearby listed building.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 23 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 10 June 2012

Kent County Council

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012

Application for designation of the Civil parish of Hythe as a neighbourhood area

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Shepway District Council has received from Hythe Town Council an application under regulation 5 of the above regulations for the district council to designate the civil parish of Hythe as a neighbourhood area within the meaning of Section 61G of the 1990 Act. The purpose of designating an area as a neighbourhood area is so that a neighbourhood plan can be prepared for that area.

A copy of the application and a map of the area can be viewed on the district council's website at **www.shepway.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning** or at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY during normal office hours.

Representations on whether the civil parish of Hythe is an appropriate neighbourhood area may be made to the district council no later than 23rd July by writing to Chris Lewis, Head of Planning, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY or by email to **planning@shepway.gov.uk**. Telephone 01303 853278 for further information.

Chris Lewis,
Head of Planning
8th June 2012

Highways Notices can be found on pages 46 and 47

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01565/HOUSE 7 Fuggles Court Benenden, Benenden
- Single storey rear extension (CA)

12/01577/FUL Beacon Hall House Rolvenden Road, Benenden
- Conversion of stables to holiday-let accommodation (LB)

12/01451/FUL Blue Cedars Langton Road, Broadwater
- Demolition of bungalow and replace with a detached 3-bedroom house (CA)

12/01510/HOUSE 8A Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Conversion of garage into habitable space and extending over on first floor. Single storey rear extension. Render to ground floor (CA)

12/01584/LBC Mascalls Court Cottage Mascalls Court Road, Paddock Wood
- Listed building consent - alteration works and removal of chimney stack on the north west elevation (works already completed) (LB)

12/01484/FUL Treetops & Thornbury Sandrock Road, Park
- Conversion of two flats to single dwelling; remodelling of house with improved external materials and new windows/doors; balcony to north west corner; dormers amended and new dormer/rooflights added; landscape works to southern end of site (CA)

12/01576/FUL Park View Pembury Road, Park
- (Part site) four-bedroom detached dwelling (Redesign of approved application TW/11/00360/FUL) (CA)

12/01579/HOUSE Old Place Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Conversion of part of the ground floor of the existing Coach House to ancilliary residential accommodation. Extension on west elevation (revised application to previously consented scheme, TW/10/02116 refers) (LB)

12/01583/LBC Old Place Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of part of the ground floor of the existing Coach House to ancilliary residential accommodation. Extension on west elevation (revised application to previously consented scheme, TW/10/02118 refers) (LB)

12/01475/FULMJ Texaco 13 - 17 London Road, Southborough Town Council
- Demolition of petrol filing station/car dealership buildings and construct a 74 bed care home with new access and landscaped gardens (MAJOR) (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 09 June 2012

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Swale Borough Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 25TH JUNE 2012

SW/12/0561 & SW/12/0562:
Loft conversion with 1 conservation rooflight & 1 dormer window to rear elevation. Existing concrete tiled roof to be replaced with slate tiles - 15 Edith Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0567 & SW/12/0734:
Application to extend original planning permission SW/09/0323 - Parsonage Farm House, The Street, BREDGAR; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0666:
Erection of fences, gates and shed - Wheelwrights Cottages, 1 Lewson Street, NORTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0699:
1) House conversion; 2) Demolish existing rear extension and replace with new rear extension with rear terrace; 3) works to reinstate chimney stack; 4) Other minor alterations - 22 Church Road, OARE; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0670:
Yew Tree Cottage, 2 Hogbens Hill, SELLING; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0711:
Listed Building Consent for replacement of gas supplies pipe - 7/8 Davington Cottages, Davington Hill, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/2128/S - 20, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RT - Change of use and extension of the premises from offices to residential to provide a total of 5 flats including the demolition of the existing rear extension and erection of part two/part single storey rear extensions to the building fronting Tonbridge Road, together with parking provision and cycle storage and bin enclosures. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0492/S - 1, SHEPHERDS COTTAGES, WATER LANE, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0SG - Retrospective application for erection of close boarded fencing and entrance gates and for the laying of hardstanding. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0624/S - LITTLE ADDLESTEAD, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6EY - Erection of a two storey side extension, installation of 1no front dormer window, 3no rear dormer windows and changes to fenestration. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0766/S - 466, 468, 470, LOOSE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9UA - Demolition of 466, 468 and 470 Loose Road including all associated buildings and erection of 11(no) detached dwellings with new service road and associated works. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0773/S - 3, ELVEYS COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HY - Two storey side extension and porch (resubmission of MA/12/0374). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0780/N - IVY HOUSE, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4DN - Listed building consent for internal alterations including removal of existing modern partition walls, erection of new internal stud wall, replacement of sanitary fittings, new internal door, raising of ceiling level beneath catslide roof and removal of modern fireplace and insertion of rooflight. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0796/S - CHERRY MOUNT, MALTHOUSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BP - Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/0797/S - COURT LODGE PARK, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PD - Demolition of existing eastern extension and replacement with conservatory and extension of existing rear conservatory to provide additional living accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0808/S - OLD FOWLE HALL, QUEEN STREET, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PL - Orangery to replace existing conservatory. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0809/S - OLD FOWLE HALL, QUEEN STREET, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PL - Listed Building Consent for orangery to replace existing conservatory. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0812/S - ST HELENS, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JT - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey orangery. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0813/S - COURT LODGE PARK, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PD - Listed building consent for demolition of existing eastern extension and replacement with conservatory and extension of existing rear conservatory to provide additional living accommodation. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0823/S - HORLANDS FARM, SUMMERHILL ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9DB - Change of use of land from agriculture to keeping of horses; erection of horse livery building, machinery storage building and circular horse training area; and introduction of ancillary hard surfaces. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0825/S - LAND REAR OF, FORMER BP FILLING STATION, 531, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9LN - An application for a new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission MA/08/2384 (erection of 14 No. residential units) to allow a further three years in which to implement the development. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0828/N - HARRIETSHAM ALMSHOUSES, EAST STREET, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1HJ - Erection of ten 1-bedroom almshouses and a day room and provision of enlarged car parking area including the demolition of existing garage/store building. **Reason: 1, 2, 6**

MA/12/0843/S - LITTLE MOATENDEN, MAIDSTONE ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PT - Change of use of land to residential and erection of a three bay garage/store with room in the roof to provide home office (Resubmission of MA/12/0843). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0863/N - 55 - 57, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Installation of new shop front and associated works. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0864/N - 55 - 57, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Listed building consent for the Installation of new shop front and associated works including new door to rear. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0877/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Alterations to ground floor shop front. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0878/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Listed building consent for internal alterations, installation of 4(no) satellite dishes, 1(no) TV aerial, 3(no) air conditioning units, replacement of fenestration to front elevation at ground floor level and erection of 1(no) externally illuminated fascia sign formed from individually built lettering and 1(no) externally illuminated projecting sign. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0879/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Installation of 3(no) air conditioning units, 4(no) satellite dishes and 1(no) TV aerial. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0880/N - ETHOS, 9, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Change of use of basement and ground floor level to bookmakers (A2 Use). **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **24th June 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 10th June 2012

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

We Manelight Ltd. t/a Tap 'n' Tin (Chatham) are applying for a new Premises Licence at the Tap 'n' Tin, 24 Railway Street, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4JT. Our application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR.

We are applying for the following licensable activities Sale of Alcohol (10am – 03.30), Regulated Entertainment (10am till 03.30) and Late Night Refreshment (10am – 03.30).

Should you wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view our application by contacting the Council on 01634 337107 or 337108 by 4th July 2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00771/FUL: St Edmund's School, St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, CT2 8HU Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/00323/CAN for the construction of astro-turf pitch and floodlighting in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: St Edmund's School** Reason: Public right of way/major development.
CA//12/00819/FUL: Court Lodge Coach House and Stable, Church Lane, Nackington, Lower Hardres, CT4 7AE Conversion of coach house to residential accommodation to provide ancillary living accommodation to Court Lodge. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Thomas** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00830/LUP: 1 Beach Alley, Whitstable, CT5 1BS Certificate of proposed lawful development for a single-storey extension to rear. **Applicant: Mr Newton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00842/FUL: 43 Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HS Replacement windows and front door. **Applicant: Mr Ingoldby** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00854/LB: 19 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TH Installation of non-illuminated hanging sign. **Applicant: County Clothes** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00856/LB: 27 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BT Installation of two hanging signs. **Applicant: Mrs S Wood** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00890/VAR: Canterbury College, New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3AJ Variation of condition 01 of planning permission CA/09/00010/CAN to allow retention of temporary building and contractor's compound until August 2015. **Applicant: Canterbury College** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00891/FUL: Yew Tree Farmhouse, Stone Street, Petham, CT4 5PL Extension to outbuilding incorporating cart shed and store. **Applicant: Mr R Cadman** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/00892/FUL: The Masonic Library and Museum, St Peter's Place, Canterbury, CT1 2BG Partial replacement of boundary wall with gates and piers. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Masonic Province East Kent** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00897/OUT: Land rear of 273-285a, Sturry Road, Canterbury, CT1 1DS Erection of a two-storey block of student accommodation (10 x one bed studio apartments) with associated cycle store and refuse enclosure. (Outline application). **Applicant: Sloggett Group Ltd** Reason: Major development.
CA//12/00902/LB: Chislet Court, Church Lane, Chislet, CT3 4DU Change of use of east wing from storage to annexe, associated internal and external alterations and garden room extension. **Applicant: Mr M and Mrs K Wilkinson** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00907/ADV: 27 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BT Installation of two hanging signs. **Applicant: Mrs S Ward** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00908/VAR: Chislet Court, Church Lane, Chislet, CT3 4DU Variation of condition 02 of planning permission CA/10/02067/FUL relating to approved drawing numbers; changes to design of garden room and associated details. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Wilkinson** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00934/LB: Yew Tree Farmhouse, Stone Street, Petham, CT4 5PL Extension to outbuilding incorporating cart shed and store. **Applicant: Mr R Cadman** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 2 July 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 8 June 2012

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0491/SH - Nightingale Cottage High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Erection of a two storey rear extension.

Y12/0308/SH# - GJB Autos North Street New Romney Kent TN28 8DW - Erection of a terrace of 3 No. 3 bedroom dwellings with associated parking following demolition of existing building.

Y12/0459/SH - 37 Sandgate Hill Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AX - Retrospective application for the erection of a detached timber outbuilding on supporting timbers.

Y12/0516/SH+ - Hythe Lawn Tennis Club Twiss Road Hythe Kent - Felling of two Elm trees situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of a Lombardy Poplar and a Lime tree.

Y12/0515/SH - Folkestone Library 2 Grace Hill Folkestone Kent CT20 1HD - Listed building consent to erect partition walls within entrance foyer to form new registry office.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGHS OF MAIDSTONE AND SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS KH389, KH448/ZR305, KH449, KH450, KH451

IN THE PARISHES OF WICHLING, OTTERDEN AND DODDINGTON

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS KH389, KH448/ZR305, KH449, KH450, KH451 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed the following Public Footpaths

- KH389 (between Hubbards Hill and Payden Street) for approx 1 week
- KH450 (between Paydens Street Farm and north of The Homestead) for approx 1 week
- KH451 (between Payden Street and Slade Road) for approx 1 week
- KH448 (between the junction with KH454 and the junctions with Slade Road / Old Farm Lane) for approx 3 weeks
- KH449 (between Payden Street and the junction with KH448) for approx 3 weeks

from the 1st June 2012

The Order allows for the paths to be closed for a maximum of six months, should this be necessary.

The paths will be closed because works to excavate and build a pipeline are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: John Pelham

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 10th June 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

From builders in Broadstairs to furniture in Folkestone

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

HIGH STREET, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the granite setts in the carriagway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Ashford, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with North Street and Wellesley Road.

The alternative route is via North Street, Park Street, Edinburgh Road, A292 Somerset Road and Wellesley Road.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended between North Street and Wellesley Road to allow access from either direction, up to the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

A28 WINCHEAP, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide services and drainage for a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 Wincheap, Canterbury, on or after 11 June 2012, as shown below.

The work will be carried out in 2 phases, the first phase being a full time east-bound closure with the second phase being night time closures in both directions.

The start date for the second phase may vary, dependent on progress with the earlier phase.

The closures are between the junctions with Ten Perch Road and Cow Lane, with access only, as far as Homersham.

The alternative route for both phases is via Ten Perch Road, The Boundary, Cotton Road and Cow Lane.

PHASE 1 - from 11 June 2012, for up to 8 days, Wincheap will be closed to eastbound (Canterbury-bound) traffic.

There will be no entry from Cow Lane into Cotton Road except access for collections and deliveries to Homebase and Mitcham Building Supplies.

Traffic leaving Canterbury will be unaffected.

PHASE 2 - from 18 June 2012 Wincheap will be closed in both directions, for up to 3 nights, between 8.00 pm through until 5.00 am the following morning.

MILL VIEW ROAD, HERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill View Road, Herne, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Sections of the road will be closed in phases, with access to Strode Park maintained from at least one of its junctions.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Mill Lane, School Lane, Herne Street and Canterbury Road.

STATION ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe use of a crane to lift building materials onto a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Whitstable, on or after 11 June 2012, as detailed below.

There will be one closure during week commencing 11 June 2012 and one closure during week commencing 18 June 2012.

The specific closure dates will be advised locally and signposted on site.

Each closure will be for up to 1 day, within the hours of 8.30 am and 4.00 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 89.

The alternative route is via Westmead Road and Diamond Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

BACK STREET, RINGWOULD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Back Street, Ringwould, Deal, on or after 12 June 2012 for up to 3 days, between 8.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Front Street.

SANDOWN ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandown Road, Sandwich, on or after 18 June 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with St George's Road and Knightrider Street.

The alternative routes are via St George's Road, New Street, Harnet Street, Strand Street, Upper Strand Street and Knightrider Street, or in reverse via Knightrider Street, Upper Strand Street, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, New Street and St George's Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

JUBILEE CRESCENT, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Essential carriageway and footway repairs , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Jubilee Crescent, Gravesend, on or after 25 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Hampton Crescent to outside 100 Jubilee Crescent.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Hampton Crescent to outside 100 Jubilee Crescent.

LEYWOOD ROAD, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Electrical power cable up-grade, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Leywood Road, Meopham, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed.

There will be no access for through traffic from the top scection of Leywood Road near the junction of Luxon Road.

The alternative route is via Lockyers Hill, Strawberry Hill, Dean Lane and White Horse Lane.

PRIESTWOOD ROAD, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT work to access a underground structure to allow a new customer connection , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Priestwood Road, Meopham , on or after 14 June 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Priestwood Road will be closed at the Junction with Chandlers Road.

Through traffic will be directed around the works via the island in Chandlers Road at junction with Priestwood Road

HIGHWAYS - District of Maidstone

FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace manholes, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Farleigh Hill, Tovil, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Straw Mill Hill.

The alternative route is via Burial Ground Lane, Tovil Green, Lower Tovil, Church Street, Tovil Hill.

GRAVELLY BOTTOM ROAD, LEEDS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of CCTV works on sewers, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gravelly Bottom Road, Leeds, on or after 13 June 2012 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Ulverscroft.

The alternative route is via Gravelly Bottom Road, Broomfield Road, Park Barn Road, Burberry Lane, Upper Street, Ulcombe Road, Gravelly Bottom Road.

GRAVELLY WAYS, YALDING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gravelly Ways, Yalding, on or after 12 June 2012 for up to 3 nights between 23.30hrs and 05.40hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the Beltring Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Beltring Road, A228 Branbridges Road/Boyle Road, B2015 Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road, Gravelly Ways.

HEADCORN ROAD LENHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT have requested safe access to undergrond structure for cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Headcorn Road Lenham, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed .

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of green lane along Headcorn Lane to the juction of Lenham road for the entire length .

The alternative route is via Via Green Lane , Lenham Road.

SIMMONDS LANE, OTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a high voltage cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Simmonds Lane, Otham, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Foxgloves.

The alternative route is via Honey Lane, White Horse Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC, BAN RIGHT TURN, SUSPEND ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near the road Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on the routes described in schedule below.

The Order will become effective on 11th June 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. These restrictions will be effective as and when required and the appropriate signage is in place.

Stone St phase 2 and 3 traffic orders
Phase 2 Mid June - October

LOWER STONE ST AND HALE RD

	As required and indicated by signs 1st July 2012 - 26th October 2012	Diversion
1	Close Romney Place	Padsole Lane Mote Rd
2	Close Lower Stone St (night closure 2230 - 0500)	Romney Place Radsole Lane Mote Rd
3	Ban right turn into Knightrider St*	Romney Place Padsole Lane and Mote Rd
4	Close Mote Rd slip from Lower Stone St (night only)*	Romney Place Padsole Lane
5	Close Campbell Rd at junction with Hayle Rd and suspend one way order between Hayle Rd and Muir Rd*	Muir Rd, Old Tovil Rd, Upper Stone St, Sheals Crescent, Postley Rd, Hayle Rd
6	Close Old Tovil Rd (E) at junction with Hayle Rd/ Postley Rd and suspend one way order between Hayle Rd and Muir Rd*	Hayle Rd Mill St Palace Ave Lower Stone St Upper Stone St Campbell Rd Muir Rd

*provisional orders to be used if necessary after site investigation

Phase 3 October - March 2013

Upper Stone St

	CLOSURES	Diversion
	As required and indicated by signs 26th October 2012 - 31st March 2013	
7	Foster St at Junction with Upper Stone St	Brunswick St Priory Rd
8	Brunswick St at Junction with Upper Stone St	Foster St and Priory Rd
9	George St at Junction with Upper Stone St*	Brunswick St
10	Campbell Rd at Junction with Upper Stone St suspend one way order between Upper Stone St and Rawdon Rd*	Upper Stone St, Sheals Crescent, Postley Rd, Old Tovil Rd, Rawdon Rd
11	Brunswick St East from Upper Stone St to Melville Rd Waterloo St at Junction with Upper Stone St suspend no entry at east end	East bound Upper Stone St Waterloo St Kingsley Rd Melville Rd Westbound Melville Rd Mote Rd and Upper Stone St
12		Brunswick St Kingsley Rd
13	Upper Stone St from Mote Rd to Waterloo St (Night only 2230 - 0500)	Through Traffic - Mote Rd, Watt Tyler Way, Ashford Rd, Willington St, Sutton Rd, Loose Rd Local Traffic (no HGV) Mote Rd, Hastings Rd, Waterloo St, - suspend No Entry Waterloo St at junction with Kingsley Rd
14	College Walk Footpath*	Priory Rd, Mill St, College Rd

*provisional orders to be used if necessary after site investigation

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Adsley on 01233 714082.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CASTLE HILL, HARTLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Castle Hill, Hartley, Sevenoaks between the junction of Fawkham Road, Fawkham and Ash Road, Hartley.

The Order will become effective on 24th June 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 25 June 2012 and will last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Ash Road in Hartley and Hartley Road and Main Road, Longfield and Fawkham Road, Longfield and Fawkham Road, Fawkham.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new gas supply.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

A259 RED LION SQUARE, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

traffic on the A259, Hythe, on or after 25 June 2012 for up to 3 nights, between 7.00 pm and 1.00 am.

There will be no access through Hythe using the A259 during these works.

The A259 will be closed in the vicinity of Red Lion Square, as detailed below.

Eastbound, the closure is from Military Road (from the junction of the road leading to Military Road Car park) including Red Lion Square into Rampart Road as far as the junction with Stade Street.

Westbound, the A259 closure is of Rampart Road from the junction with Stade Street through Red Lion Square into Dymchurch Road, as far as the junction with Portland Road.

The alternative route is via A259 Dymchurch Road, Scanlons Bridge Road (Military Road in reverse) A261 London Road, Hythe Road, A20 Ashford Road, Sandling Road, Ashford Road, Junction 11 Stanford Intersection, A20 Ashford Road, Junction 12 Cheriton Interchange, B2064 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road, A259 Castle Hill Avenue, Shorncliffe Road, Earls Avenue, Sandgate Road, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate Esplanade, Seabrook Road, East Street, Prospect Road and Rampart Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, FOLKESTONE AREA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Folkestone Area, as shown below.

Planned closure times are between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

ALBION ROAD, FOLKESTONE will be closed on 11 June 2012 for up to 2 days.

The closure is in the vicinity of the junction with Fernbank Crescent.

The alternative route is via Linden Crescent and Canterbury Road.

AUDLEY ROAD, FOLKESTONE will be closed on 18 June 2012 for 1 day.

The closure is between Shorncliffe Road and Croft Lane

The alternative route is via Shorncliffe Road, Coolinge Lane and Croft Lane.

GRIMSTON GARDENS, FOLKESTONE will be closed on 18 June 2012 for 1 day.

The closure is on the eastern section of the road, to the north of the T-junction.

Access remains from the remainder of the road.

NAILDOWN CLOSE, SEABROOK will be closed on 18 June 2012 for up to 2 days.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

MINTCHING WOOD LANE AND RAWLING STREET, MILSTEAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of phone cabling works in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mintching Wood Lane and Rawling Street, Milstead, on or after 11 June 2012, as shown below.

MINTCHING WOOD LANE will be closed from 11 June 2012 for up to 3 days

The closure is in the vicinity of Walnut Tree Cottages, with no through access between the junctions with Wood Lane and Bluetown Lane.

The alternative route is via Wood Lane, Manor Road and Bluetown Lane.

RAWLING STREET will be closed on 14 June 2012 for up to 1 day.

The closure is between Lion Farm Cottages and The Larches, with no through access between the junctions with Mintching Wood Lane (north of the M2) and Cheney Hill.

The alternative route is via Broadoak Road, Bottom Pond Road and Cheney Hill.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

OAK LANE, MINSTER-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Oak Lane, Minster-on-Sea, on or after 25 June 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from outside The Oaks to the entrance to Seacliffe Caravan Park.

There is no alternative route as this section of the road is a No Through Road.

Every effort will be made to allow as much access as possible, whenever safe to do so, but there will be times when the use of machinery prevents this.

PRESTON GROVE, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Preston Grove, Faversham, on or after 26 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with the A2 London Road.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road, The Mall, Preston Lane and Preston Grove.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

B2053 NORTHDOWN HILL AND WESTOVER ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2053 Northdown Hill and Westover Road, Broadstairs, on or after 28 June 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 8.00 pm and 1.00 am.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pearsons Way and Westover Gardens.

The alternative route is via B2053 Northdown Hill, Green Lane, B2052 George Hill Road, Convent Road and Beacon Road.

EPPLE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable a bridge safety inspection to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Epple Road, Birchington, on or after 11 June 2012 between 10.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Epple Road, Alpha Road, Station Approach, Rossetti Road, Epple Bay Road and Cross Road.

SANDWICH ROAD, RAMSGATE & CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, MINSTER / MANSTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable the construction of traffic calming measures, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandwich Road, Ramsgate & Canterbury Road West, Minster / Manston.

This Order takes effect on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 2 months.

Closures of Sandwich Road and Canterbury Road West will take place on various nights, between 8.00 pm through until 6.00 am, with specific dates notified one week beforehand.

Only one of the roads will be closed at any one time.

SANDWICH ROAD, RAMSGATE (formerly A256) will be closed to through traffic between Ebbsfleet Roundabout and Lord of the Manor Junction.

The alternative route is via A256 Richborough Way and A299 Hengist Way

CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, MINSTER / MANSTON (formerly A299) will be closed to through traffic between Cliffsend Roundabout and Lord of the Manor Junction.

The alternative route is via A299 Hengist Way.

ST PAUL'S ROAD, CLIFTONVILLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow electricty cabling repairs to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Paul's Road, Cliftonville, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Sweyn Road.

There is no alternative route. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access up to where the road is closed.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tonbridge & Malling

A228 SEVEN MILE LANE, EAST PECKHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of street cleansing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on A228 Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham between A26 Tonbridge Road and A228 Boyle Way on or after 16 June 2012 for up to 16 days or until the works have been completed.

COMP LANE, PLATT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Comp Lane, Platt, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 12 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Long Mill Lane, A25 Maidstone Road, A20 London Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane

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TAYLORS LANE, TROTTISCLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace electricity power lines, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Taylors Lane, Trottiscliffe, on or after 26 June 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed along the whole length.

The alternative route is southbound traffic via Pilgrims Way, Pinesfield Lane, Church Road and northbound is via Wrotham Water Lane, Pilgrims Way, A227 Gravesend Road, Pilgrims Way.

WELL STREET, EAST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a telegraph pole and provide a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Well Street, East Malling, on or after 11 June 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Broadwater Road to outside 177.

The alternative route is via Clare Lane, Mill Street, Wateringbury Road, Pikey Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (NORTH FARM ROAD/DOWDING WAY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on North Farm Road/Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells from the junction of Chapman Way to Lamberts Road. This closure will come into effect on or after Monday 25th June 2012 between 21.00hrs and 06.00hrs for an estimated period of up to 5 nights or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via North Farm Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Sandhurst Road, Birken Road, Liptraps Lane and Lamberts Road. The environmental 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Birken Road and Liptraps Lane is temporarily suspended for the duration of these works.

Connect Traffic Management apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for works to the railway bridge. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Paul Coppin on 0844 812 6006.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A228 MAIDSTONE ROAD, CAPEL/WHETSTED ROAD, CAPEL/ WHETSTED ROAD, YALDING/BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM/BOYLE WAY, B2160 MAIDSTONE ROAD, YALDING, BELTRING ROAD, EAST PECKHAM, BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM) (50MPH & 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS) (NO STOPPING OR WAITING RESTRICTIONS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public the Kent County Council intends to make an Order with the following restrictions.

1) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 50mph is prohibited on the A228 Maidstone Road, Capel from the junction with B2017 Badsell Road to Little Eden Farm, A228 Whetsted Road, Capel.
2) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 30mph is prohibited on the A228 Whetsted Road, Capel between Little Eden Farm to the roundabout outside the main entrance to The Hop Farm Country Park.
3) Eastbound traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 50mph is prohibited on the A228 Hale Street By-Pass from the junction with B2015 Maidstone Road to the roundabout at Branbridges Industrial Estate.
4) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 30mph in both directions is prohibited on A228 Branbridges Road from the roundabout at Branbridges Industrial Estate to the roundabout at the Hop Farm Country Park.
5) Traffic travelling at any speed in excess of 30mph in both directions is prohibited on the B2160 Maidstone Road from the roundabout at The Hop Farm Country Park to Transfesa Road.
6) The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting or stopping on A228 Maidstone Road from B2017 Badsell Road/Whetsted Road/Branbridges Road/ Boyle Way to A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road between Transfesa Road and A228 Whetsted Road roundabout and Beltring Road between A228 Branbridges Road to Torbay Road.
7) Prohibit waiting and stopping on Branbridges Road, outside of the Industrial Estate.

These restrictions are to be in place, when required as indicated by signage on site on Thursday 28th June 2012 to Monday 2nd July 2012 and Wednesday 18th July 2012 to Sunday 22nd July 2012.

The Hop Farm Country Park apologise for any inconvenience caused by these restrictions which are necessary due to large scale events taking place.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 10th June 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

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Good value, good service

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly - Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value - Mr & Mrs Thurbon of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful - Mrs Norman of Stroud

What Readers said about our Exclusive Party Break at Pontin's Pakefield in March

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Quote MR7-KOS

7 July, 2012

Travelling by Eurostar train from London St Pancras, then the swift TGV train to Nice on the French Riviera, the journey on this holiday promises to be as exciting as the places we will visit. Our destination is Nice, capital of the Côte d'Azur, where we spend 3 nights. The pinnacle of the weekend is a day spent in neighbouring Monaco, taking in the famous sights including Monte Carlo Casino, the iconic Port Hercule harbour and the old city on the Rock of Monaco. Our visit also takes in a spectacular Musical Fireworks display over the harbour.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (*from Ebbsfleet/ Ashford on request)
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	6, 13, 20, 27 July	3	£99

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SEE PAGE 53

SCORE DRAW

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SEE PAGE 56

Kent Weekend

Kent's own special orchid

... and the group that's helping it to beat the odds

SEE PAGE 51

PLUS: Paolo's making something special in his kitchen - **food and drink p52** Farmstead style of modern homes offers the best of both worlds - **property p58** Kia sowing the Ceed for a new generation - **driving p63**

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CONSERVATION

White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

The gateway guardians

Dave Mairs meets the group ensuring England's front line keeps a place for nature

ROLLING BACK THE YEARS: WCCP staff (Kirk Alexander is on the right) back when it all began in 1989, left, and an expanded team some 20 years on

AS a survival strategy, that of the late spider orchid might leave a little to be desired. With its pollination and, ultimately, existence dependent on a species of bee that doesn't occur in the UK, it is a wonder it survives on our shores at all.

And, quite possibly, without the efforts of organisations such as the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, it wouldn't.

The organisation that started out as the White Cliffs Countryside Project came into being in 1989, a year in which just six late spider orchids were recorded on what was to become one of its core sites, Folkestone Downs. Across Kent, the only county to host the species, the population probably numbered no more than a few hundred. Extinction here beckoned.

A helping hand was needed if this intriguing plant was to have a British future, and in south Kent it came from the project, or, more particularly, from the cattle that were brought in to those sites still hosting it.

They were needed to maintain the chalk grassland that supports not just this intriguing orchid but so much other wonderful wildlife – this is a semi-natural habitat that would not exist without grazing. The landscape would revert to scrub and ultimately woodland, and hefty chunks of one of Europe's finest wildlife habitats would disappear.

And who's to say that we don't live in a part of the world where nature needs all the help it can get? Standing with the partnership's Kirk Alexander and Phil Green on the Folkestone Downs overlooking the sprawling, unlovely Channel Tunnel workings that have ripped such a gaping scar in this part of the county, it's easy to believe that here is an area in which the wonders of our natural world have come very much second best.

While the wounds of development will perhaps never fully heal, you soon discover that nature has not simply clung on here but is, to some extent at least, thriving.

This is Eurotunnel territory and, although there are legal obligations to wildlife protection, Kirk is keen to point out that the company "went way beyond what was needed by law", both in respect of the orchid and the project itself.

Phil goes further: "The project probably wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for Eurotunnel. They're not the only funders, but there's a good probability that without them this wouldn't have happened. They also help with bidding for European funding... cross-borders money and so on."

Now in its 23rd year, WCCP manages 20 sites that cover some 300 hectares of chalk grassland in the Dover and Folkestone area. There are 12 staff, but some of these are part-time, making an equivalent of eight full-time workers.

The partnership is about very much more than just one species, although the late spider orchid is unquestionably a jewel in the crown, and indeed its remit extends to more than simply conserving wildlife... it is also of inestimable benefit to people.

Huge numbers of visitors come to walk, relax or see the area's wonderful range of flowers (Folkestone Warren, for example, hosts more than 100,000 people a year), while there are now an impressive 15 participating organisations.

Vital though WCCP is in this beleaguered, overcrowded part of the world, it would not be with us were it not for the cooperation – and in some cases money – of those partner groups.

The WCCP budget is substantial, covering some £300,000 a year. Dover District Council is the 'responsible body', contributing £90,000 per annum, while neighbouring Shepway council gives £40,360 and Eurotunnel the same amount. And the good folk of south-east Kent get their money's worth...

"We're not here to deter people – we don't want to frighten them away," said Kirk. "Virtually everything we have is open to the public – we want people to come here."

So everyone's a winner, not least the late spider orchid, which in 2011 numbered an encouraging 200 individuals in the Folkestone and Cheriton area alone.

With the exception of a few individuals scattered along the downs, the next reasonably-sized colonies are at Wye National Reserve, where habitat management has also resulted in more plants. After that, there are none.

The reintroduction of cattle by WCCP (some sites had not been grazed for 50 years) as part of a wider management regime has delivered an impressive return, but we're still left with the conundrum of how this intriguing plant survives in the absence of its apparently vital partner insect.

Self-pollination? No. So how?

"They're long-lived – eight to 15 years, on average – and that helps," said Phil, a man who really does get up close and personal with the plants and has perhaps done more than anyone to secure their Kentish future.

"When numbers are high – as they are now, and were in the late 1800s and early 1900s – the chances of casual pollination by other species of insect to a couple of flowers is high.

"But when numbers had got as low as they were when WCCP started, and indeed long before, then any pollination is unlikely and in the early days there was no pollination that wasn't down to humans.

"I have to collect the pollen from a flower of one plant and place this on the stigma [the female part] of another plant's flower. The pollen is stored away in little sacs – it isn't loose, as in most other plant species – so these sacs have to be physically carried from one plant to another.

"My pollination is carried out under licence, otherwise it would be illegal to interfere with them, as the late spider orchid is legally protected.

"Occasionally, the wind or a passing animal may cause the pollen sacs to come loose and fall on the stigma of the same flower, but this would not normally happen and can't be guaranteed."

Phil's intimate intervention aside, the cattle hold the key at Folkestone Downs and at similar sites, their no-nonsense approach to wrapping rough tongues around vegetation such as the rugged tor grass and ripping it up meaning there is no fancy nibbling of the short sward so important to the chalk flora and fauna.

There is, it should be noted, more to chalk-grassland management than simply releasing a herd of cows into a field and leaving them to it. Variety of habitat is crucial if the mosaic of grasses, herbs, flowers, butterflies and all the rest with their differing needs are to thrive... there is a lot to consider and opinions on the exact methods as mixed as the range of species to be protected.

All have their intrinsic value, but it is impossible to deny the historic bond between the late spider orchid and this south-eastern tip of the North Downs, for it was on Cheriton Hill that the species was first discovered in the UK.

Its prospects look healthier than they have for years, but what of those of WCCP?

"It depends what the Government does," said Kirk. "Natural England has already had its budget cut. There are changing priorities. Everybody's cutting back and we've taken cuts before.

"We raise quite a bit of our own funding, but otherwise it's split pretty much equally between local government, central government and Europe, and private sources."

Wherever the money comes from, the continued success of the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership should be appreciated by us all.

You don't need to be a botanist or wildlife expert to appreciate its work. If you simply value the opportunity to walk in open space surrounded by some very special wildlife away from the cloying urban sprawl of the Kent coast, you had better hope this organisation is with us for many years to come.

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Paolo stirs a culinary ripple across sedate Minnis Bay

RESTAURANT REVIEW

LOCATED a stone's throw from Minnis Bay and nestled among its, let's say, more elderly population, new restaurant Paolo's Kitchen has brought a taste of the Mediterranean smack bang to Thanet's coastline.

And while its location may not be in the hub of the town or on the picturesque bay just seconds down the road, it doesn't matter... the food, atmosphere and interior – and exterior, although we'll get to that in a minute – are likely to draw in the crowds and place Paolo's Kitchen among the best of the isle's eateries.

The restaurant itself is cosy, understated and authentic – perhaps owing to the fact that owner and chef Paolo lived and worked in Malta – and the short menu a mix of mouthwatering Mediterranean favourites.

My guest and I ordered a bottle of white wine (£12.90) and the friendly waitress brought out a plate of antipasti – artichoke, bread and halloumi cheese with oil and balsamic vinegar – while we looked at the menu.

For my starter I chose the grilled aubergines in garlic, coriander and olive oil served with a side of natural yoghurt (£4.50), while my companion plumped for calamari fritti in burro (pan-fried calamari in butter) served with parsley, a drizzle of lemon juice and balsamic reduction (£4.50).

I don't eat calamari, but after being tempted

into trying some of my guest's I gave it a go and it was absolutely delicious.

My aubergine was tasty, light and simple, something you could also imagine eating alfresco with a glass of wine in a sunny courtyard.

Which brings me on to the exterior of Paolo's Kitchen. At the back of the restaurant, patio doors lead out onto a massive area of grassed garden with what looks to be the start of an outside dining area.

If I hadn't been convinced before, I most definitely was then that here was a place likely to rival some of Thanet's favourite restaurants. If we get some of that sunshine we're all craving, this could become *the* place for alfresco dining.

Moving back to the menu, my guest and I chose our mains, my companion the butterfly chicken breast served on a sizzling clay plate cooked in a brandy and mushroom sauce, with hand-cut chips and Mediterranean vegetables (£13) and me the spinach and ricotta tortellini in butter and a creamy sauce (£9).

My pasta was rich and tasty and my guest's chicken packed with bags of flavour.

For dessert I chose the cheeseboard and was served a selection of delicious and unusual cheeses. My companion chose the lemon cheesecake with a shot of Limoncello on the side.

Our final bill came to £64.

The fresh and tasty food combined with a relaxed atmosphere, the rare appearance of the sunshine outside and a few glasses of wine made us feel like we were on holiday.

And if there's anything that most people fed up with this British weather want right now, it's a holiday. So if you feel like escaping from the mundane for a few hours, Paolo's Kitchen is well worth your consideration.

Marijke Cox

■ Paolo's Kitchen
133 Minnis Road, Birchington CT7 9NS
Telephone 01843 447914

Hamper heralds bright new future for Strood

MORRISONS in Strood now looks a little different as it has been picked as one of only a handful of retail outlets across the UK to receive a 'Store of the Future' revamp.

And with summer picnics just around the corner, it is experimenting with some more exotic products on the shelves – alongside the traditional favourites.

Prickly pears through to Cornish Yarg cheese and Spanish fruit cherimoya can all be found in the shop.

Other delights include rambutans – hairy, spiky fruits straight from Ecuador that can be used in cocktails or tropical fruit salads or reduced down to make a simple syrup – and jelly nuts, sourced in Costa Rica and also known as young coconuts.

Beetroot houmous is a twist on a classic favourite; the beetroot creates a colourful houmous with a sweet and earthy taste.

YOUR WEEKEND

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Knight fever
Try your skills during battle

Leeds Castle, Maidstone
Sat and Sun, June 23-24
01622 735616
www.leeds-castle.com

RAISE your swords and prepare to do battle at the Leeds Castle Knight School. On the weekend of June 23-24, youngsters will have the chance to try on replica medieval armour, helmets, breastplates, chainmail and gauntlets before battle.
They can have a lesson in medieval swordsmanship and participate in a fun recreation of the Battle of Agincourt.
This will be a riot of family fun that will allow you to get your hands on history.
Those with the year-long Key To The Castle pass can access the event for free.
Standard tickets cost £19.75 for adults, £17.50 for seniors and visitors with disabilities (carer goes free) and £12.50 for children (under-fours free).

Coppice week
Lear the craft of years past

Godinton House, Ashford
Sun to Thu, June 10-14
01233 643854
godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

GODINTON House and Gardens is hosting the third annual Coppice Week this month, with the UK's most experienced craftsmen running parkland courses.
You can learn to carve a spoon or make a hurdle or even a greenwood chair as beginners experience the basic crafts.
There will also be something more advanced for those who have already begun learning this outdoor skill.
The relaxed atmosphere will take you back to the old world of coppice-workers camping in the woodland.
Courses range from one to three days, with skilled teachers such as Alan Sage making chestnut gate hurdles, Sean Hellman and his east European fan birds and Richard Hobbs with an Introduction To Bent Hazel Chairs.

Expect the moonlight
Toploader are back!

The Central Theatre, Chatham
Friday, July 6, at 7.30pm
01634 338338
www.whatsonmedway.co.uk

THE group who once had the whole world up on their feet every time the words Dancing In The Moonlight were uttered are returning to tour the UK ahead of their new album.
That's right, Toploader have returned to the music scene, having finished their latest work with the guidance of Morrissey and Coldplay producer Danton Supple.
Famous for songs such as Achilles Heel, released from monster-selling album Onka's Big Moka, the Eastbourne-based group had previously gone triple-platinum before a hiatus.
The boys aim to return to form this time round.
Tickets are priced from £13.50-£15.

The Voice pair head for home
Matt and Sueleen

Marlowe Studio, Canterbury
Friday, June 22, at 8pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

MATT and Sueleen, stars of BBC One's The Voice, will be playing their home-town gig when they appear at the Marlowe Studio this month.
The Canterbury folk-singers narrowly missed out on a semi-final place on the popular reality show and have gained some notoriety with their upbeat live performances.
The pair were coached by Welsh singing legend Tom Jones before being voted off the show.
Jones praised the couple for a range of quality performances, saying their harmonies were some of the best he had ever heard.
Tickets for the Studio gig are priced at £8 (£10 on the door) and are on sale now.

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FATHER'S DAY

Fathers get their time in the sun... Dad really deserves a lovely gift

BUYING presents for your father can often pose a real problem, *writes Joe Bill*.

There are only so many pairs of socks, slippers and suit ties that one man can own.

And if they are anything like my dad, then the old advice of 'Buy them something they wouldn't buy themselves' is a daft rule because they won't use it and it will gather dust like so many other boxes of cufflinks and aftershave.

Dads are pretty handy most of the time – they can put up shelves, cook a barbecue and give you wise words on how to hang up on cold-callers from far-away lands, so this year why not go the whole hog and really treat Pops? He deserves it.

Look out for top red-letter days to take Dad back to his youth or even give him a wholly new experience.

For example, if he is an aviation fan, why not bag him some flying lessons in a light aircraft? There are several options for once-in-a-lifetime experiences in Kent – just get in there early to make sure you get one booked up.

Is Pa a green-fingered gardener? Why not give him a tour of a local garden centre and offer him a voucher to the value of your choice?

Alternatively, perhaps you think it is time he did spend more hours in the garden. So purchase a starter kit with tools, seeds and ideas to get him started.

It is also often the case that at restaurants and on family meals Dad will pick up the bill. Buck the trend this year and share between you and your siblings the cost of the meal so your elder can for once eat for free!

There are plenty of offers around at Kent eateries at this time of year, and especially for Father's Day as they look to attract those who have run out of other gift ideas.

For the sporty dads out there, it can be difficult as the rugby and football seasons are finished before Father's Day comes around. But don't fear, the cricket season is here and Kent's home of cricket at Canterbury is always hapy to welcome new spectators.

And before we forget, always think outside the box. The box office, I mean. Take in a gig or a theatre performance at one of the many Kent venues that now attract top UK comedians as well as the finest touring companies.

There are many gifts you can give to your father this year – and they don't have to come from supermarket shelves. Remember, a dad is for life, not just for slippers.

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FOOD & DRINK Eating Out

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

Dunkerley's marks 25 years at the top

IT'S that time of year... roll back the clouds, bring on the sunshine, search out the flip-flops. Destination Deal.

More precisely, destination Dunkerley's Hotel and Restaurant as owners Ian and Linda celebrate 25 years of success.

With a sunny terrace for alfresco dining and modern, classy interior, the eatery is the picture of Britain but with a pinch of Continental elegance.

And with long-serving staff, an enviable reputation for quality food, excellent service and prime location, Dunkerley's top pair can afford a quick reminisce of their past quarter of a century.

Starting out life as a modest seafront café in 1987, Dunkerley's has gone from strength to strength, offering 16 comfortable en-suite bedrooms, while the kitchen provides food worthy of two AA Rosettes as well as the prestigious recommendation from Michelin.

And for Ian, maintaining quality is as important today as it was the day that Dunkerley's opened.

He said: "We are always modernising, changing our styles both with our food and the décor of the hotel and restaurant. We don't want anything to become stale. We want the quality of our food and our staff to remain at the very top."

Quite literally a stone's throw from the sea, Dunkerley's offers an idyllic place to sample local ingredients straight off the boat.

"Whether we're picking out the mussel shells steamed with a little tipple, cracking a claw of crab or lobster, shelling the prawns, or winkling out the whelks, cockles and clams, we all love to graze on a hot summer's day.

"We want to soak up the atmosphere and wash the whole day down with generous supplies of the very best from the wine cellars."

Few restaurants can boast 25 years, as many fall in and out of fashion, change ownership and alter cuisine, but, like a good vintage wine, this diamond in Deal's culinary crown continues to mature and improve.

Having cooked all around the world and for many celebrated guests, Ian has also had passing through his hands some of Britain's top chefs, including Great British Menu stars Daniel Clifford, of Midsummer House, Cambridge, and Charlie Lakin, Marquis At Alkham head chef.

Ian himself trained as a chef at Thanet Technical College before taking the position of commis chef at Browns Hotel in London's Mayfair, where he really learned his trade.

He said: "The learning cycle of a chef is demanding and uncompromising. You are driven by fear and intimidation from self-acclaimed gods of the kitchen.

"The chef de partie bows to the sous chefs and ultimately the head chef. But the few who survive the early barrage soon enjoy the camaraderie of the kitchen brigade. Hot, intense but passionate about their skills, catering is a way of life, not just a job. Those who treat it as just a job rarely survive."

Aged just 21, Ian took the head-chef position at the popular Woolpack Inn at Chilham. After further successes at The Royal Hotel in Deal and others, Ian and Linda bought the small seafront café Pegasus and started Dunkerley's.

Ten years on, they purchased the Pier Hotel next door and have now developed the buildings into the business that we see now.

Ian and Linda will be having a bash to celebrate their 25 years. Former employees and friends will be invited to join the fun, but the eye will never be taken off the ball for long. "The race for quality has no finish line," said Ian. "Don't ever think you have arrived."

STARS AT THE BAR: Ian and Linda are celebrating 25 remarkable years of success at Dunkerley's

■ **Dunkerley's of Deal, 19 Beach Street, Deal CT14 7AH (phone 01304 375016; website www.dunkerleys.co.uk; email info@dunkerleys.co.uk)**

YOUR WEEKEND

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Stand, deliver and gig

Adam Ant party time

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Sunday, July 15
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

THE king of the wild frontier returns to Kent as Adam Ant brings his much-talked-about tour to Dartford's Orchard theatre.
The 80s New Wave-style icon will swashbuckle his way to the county next month and tickets are expected to sell fast.
Along with The Good, The Mad And The Lovely Posse, Adam (aka Stuart Goddard) will bring his hits as well as new material to the show.
Any 80s party would not be complete without songs such as Stand And Deliver, Ant Music and Prince Charming, showing how Antmusic made his mark on the world.
This show has been described as amazing, colourful and theatrical... don't miss it!

Armour, relics and barbecue

Dads' delight

Chiddingstone Castle, Edenbridge
Saturday, June 17
01892 870347

CHIDDINGSTONE Castle will have everything any dad could want on Father's Day weekend.
The rooms display the exquisite collections of the castle's last owner, the late Denys Eyre Bower.
His collections include his Japanese swords and armour and many intriguing items recovered from the tombs of the Ancient Egyptian pharaohs.
You can see Buddhist and Stuart antiquities and paintings as well as Jacobite treasures, including the blood, hair, heart and garter ribbon of James II.
For refreshments, try out the local Larkin's Ale and an all-day BBQ. There'll also be fun activities for youngsters.
See www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk for more details.

A taste of our tuneful future

Musical youth

St George's Church, Deal
Saturday, June 30
01622 691212
www.kent-music.com

KENT County Youth Orchestra has announced that it will be performing at the Deal Festival Of Music And Arts this year.
Some of the county's most talented young musicians can rub shoulders with artists from around the globe at the festival, which runs from Friday, June 29, to Sunday, July 8.
At St George's Church, High Street, Deal, the group will play Dvorak's epic Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky's passionate Sixth Symphony.
The church grounds open at 6.30pm for pre-concert drinks.
Tickets are £15, £13 for Deal Friends and £7.50 for students, available from the Deal Festival Of Music And Arts box office on 01304 370220 or online at www.theastor.org.

Royal visitor to share his art

Craft show

Quex Park, Birchington
Sat and Sun, June 16-17
01843 823 307
www.midasleisure.co.uk

THE Midas Leisure Grand Craft And Gift Show heads to Quex Park next weekend, with royalty expected to visit.
Prince Abimbola Olaniyan will be exhibiting artwork from his Nigerian homeland with a friend, having contributed hugely to the development and promotion of arts there.
There are expected to be more than 40 stalls ranging from photography, handcrafted soaps, cards, quilts and towels, jewellery and fudge and nappy and towel cakes to accessories for the home like fused glass, doorstops and cushions.
You can have a go at crafting yourself, with the regulars from Quex Craft Village showing how it's all done.
There will be a barbecue and a beer tent, with other refreshments served in the shack.

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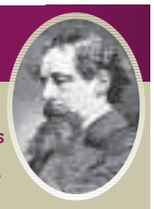
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YOUR WEEKEND

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Hear the siren
Air-raid days on the cliffs

Dover Castle
Open from 10am-5pm
01304 211 067
www.english-heritage.org.uk

VISITORS to Dover Castle on the first Friday of every month will be able to see an original Second World War Morrison air-raid shelter, part of a new Home Front Exhibition.
As a wartime wireless plays music and makes public-announcement broadcasts, visitors will be able to find out about Morrison and Anderson shelters and pinpoint the public shelters around Dover on maps and photographs.
There will be information and exhibits on the volunteer services in the area, including Air Raid Precaution Wardens and Home Front troops, plus original bandages donated by the family of a nurse who worked at Hothfield Hospital, near Ashford.
Youngsters will be kept on their toes with children's drills and the chance to discover if service life is for them.

Art in Medway comes of age
A mean scene

Nucleus Arts, Chatham Art Centre
Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8
www.nucleus-arts.com

TAKE a peek into the heart of Medway's creative and artistic hub with an open-house event at Chatham Art Centre.
As part of the Medway Open Studio And Arts Festival, the centre will be showing off the area's leading artists.
Exhibitors range from painters and photographers to sculptors and jewellers, with everything in between, offering the highest-quality work to view and gifts to buy.
With more than 30 of Medway's top creatives in one room, this is an event that arts fans will not want to miss.
Chatham Art Centre and studios will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8, from 10am-6pm.
The Nucleus café will be open both days for refreshments.

Irony meets pop-ska
Reel Big Fish

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Sunday, August 12, at 7.30pm
01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

REEL Big Fish were one of the southern Californian ska-punk bands to edge into the mainstream in the mid-90s following No Doubt.
Like many of their peers, the band were distinguished by their hyper stage shows, juvenile humour and ironic covers of pop-ska.
The group, who will appear at Folkestone's Quarterhouse as part of this summer's Skabour Festival, had an underground following before breaking into the mainstream in 1997 when their single Sell Out became an MTV favorite.
Their appearance in the movie Baseketball also gained them more fans. Fronted by lead singer Aaron Barrett, they continue to release albums and tour the world relentlessly.

What's all the buzz about?
Bee happy!

Dungeness nature reserve
Until Sunday, June 10
01797 320588
dungeness@rspb.org.uk

FOLLOWING on from the reintroduction of the short-haired bumblebee at the Dungeness RSPB nature reserve and despite some very wet weather, visitors have been buzzing along to the site's Bee Fest.
Families joined in bee walks and made bee homes and the bee trail and quiz to celebrate this iconic British insect.
Activities continue until Sunday, June 10, with a range of events including walks and talks.
There is also the chance to buy identification guides, wildflower seeds to attract bees to your gardens and other gifts. Look out for Julibee, the special queen bee who will be appearing at events on the Marsh throughout summer.

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Zoopla merger aims to boost online offering

THE merger between Zoopla and Digital Property Group has been completed and integration of the businesses is already under way, although both companies say it will take a few months to finalise.

Once finalised, the merger will result in the creation of an important new service in the property market, as well as being of huge benefit to those who are looking for property opportunities.

Zoopla spokesman Martin Cunningham said: "We are incredibly excited about the opportunities that will result from this deal and that will allow us to better serve both our users and members.

"While we still have much work to do over the coming months, once integrated, the merged business will have an unrivalled audience, brands and proposition and we will be in a position to provide a significantly enhanced experience for users and significantly enhanced value for our members.

"We remain committed to being the most useful online resource for property consumers and the most effective online marketing resource for property advertisers.

"We do not take your business for granted and appreciate your support, which we hope will continue as we work to ensure that we are creating a world-class property-search platform with service levels and a value proposition to match."

New homes combine a traditional farmstead feel with modern style

COUNTRYSIDE Properties has launched a new range of farmstead-style homes at Horsted Park in Chatham.

The architecturally-innovative contemporary development has already been short-listed for a design award. With open countryside on three sides, Horsted Park offers a varied range of new homes in a 'village' setting amid six-and-a-half acres of open space, itself almost a third of the overall site area.

There is a range of homes available, including one- and two-bedroom apartments as well as two-, three- and four-bedroom houses.

The contemporary external design, by architects Proctor & Matthews, uses carefully-chosen materials, sourced locally wherever possible, together with architectural features to allow the homes to resemble a series of farmsteads.

Many of the homes have large picture-windows that accentuate the contemporary style and create light-filled, elegant living spaces, fitted to a high specification.

Prices for two-bedroom houses start at £199,950, with three-bedroom houses from £279,950.

Further details about Horsted Park homes are available by phoning the marketing suite on 07801 526761, emailing horstedpark@cpplc.com or visiting the website www.horstedpark.co.uk.

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Jaguar usurps Lexus in customer care survey
- Chrysler's Big Yank better than ever before
- Gran Coupé gives the BMW serious 6 appeal

Evoque now in vogue as Range Rover makes its 4x4 mark

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KIA CEED

Price: £14,395
Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: VW Golf

Second-generation Ceed shows quite how quickly Kia has grown

EURO might be a flaky word at present, either when applied to the currency or to England's football prospects at Euro 2012.

But it has solidity when talking about the second-generation Kia Ceed.

The original Ceed arrived in the UK just five years ago and transformed how the Korean brand was perceived here.

Conceived and built in Europe and the pioneer for Kia's incredible worry-free seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, it closed up on established Western stars like the Vauxhall Astra, Ford Focus and VW Golf.

But Ceed generation two (from £14,395) is in among the leaders. It's no surprise to learn that the newcomer was benchmarked in particular against the VW Golf.

It can't quite match the Golf for the driving experience, but the car's style inside and out eclipses its German rival while taking note of its best features; the dashboard is a fine example, with all the functionality of the VW but also lots of added flair. The refinement and feeling of solidity is also Golf-like.

The exterior is arguably the finest so far from the team under Kia's German design-meister Peter Schreyer – the man who penned the original Audi TT.

He arrived at Kia just as the first Ceed went into production but has since junked the brand's old 'neutral look' for a new image epitomised by the 'Tiger nose' corporate grille.

I particularly like the new Ceed's classy wraparound headlamps with integrated LED running lights.

And while I might niggle about the quality of the seat finish on mid-range Ceed 2 (from £16,395) models I tested – I'm sure an equivalent Golf is better-trimmed – the fully-specc'd flagship Ceed 4 (from £20,595) I drove certainly redressed the balance.

As ever, though, Kia price and spec overall leaves most opposition standing, while the powertrains underline Kia's progress in just a few years.

There are petrol and diesel units in 1.4- and 1.6-litre capacities, but I was only able to test the latter, which dominate the range anyway.

The 1.6 diesel is far superior in refinement, energy and economy, but the direct-injection low-emission petrol makes a good fist of it and is cheaper by £1,100 – low-mileage users may feel it's the better buy.

All manual 1.6 engines also get Kia's eco-friendly ISG package, but the 1.6 petrol is currently the only one to get Kia's new slick twin-clutch DCT auto gearbox to rival that of the Golf.

An SW or estate is due later this year, with the prospect of a racy three-door Proceed follow-up. With the fluid lines of the five-door to draw upon, surely this will be offered with a Golf GTI-rivalling halo model for the Ceed range and Kia as a whole?

MAKING AN IMPACT: Kia, the Koran car-manufacturer, continues to impress with its cars, none more so than the second-generation Ceed, which is now a serious rival to more established names such as VW Golf, Vauxhall Astra and the Ford Focus

DON'T LIKE

... some penny-pinching on the Ceed 2 seats, but then this version does come with a cracking spec including alloys, cruise control *etc etc.*

NOT SURE

... the Kia badge can yet threaten VW, but the Koreans must be worrying Ford and Vauxhall and really scaring the French and Japanese.

REALLY LIKE

... how Kia always looks to improve. Criticisms of the previous Ceed were promptly addressed and the new car is a huge step forward from there.

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Vogue for Evoque buoys up Range Rover's distinctive 4x4

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LAND Rover and Jaguar sales are on the march again, inspired by desirable and distinctive products – exactly what established these sister brands in the first place.

In Jaguar's case, the new impetus comes from the award-winning XF saloon – soon to be joined by a stylish Sportbrake estate.

Meanwhile, Land Rover has caught public imagination and sales with its newly-launched junior Range Rover, the Evoque.

And it really does evoke: thoughts of Range Rovers past and present helped by that chunky front end; arguments about whether the front-wheel-drive version is a proper Range Rover; or whether to have the five-door or the almost ridiculously rakish three-door coupé.

It certainly gets me ranting, since it's not my cup of tea to look at, but then I think most of its rivals look drab.

Anyway, I'm out of step with the hordes who want to buy or wish they could afford one, and I can't argue that it's terrific to be in and great for UK exports.

And I won't dispute the thinking behind the front-wheel-drive version, either, even though 4x4 purists will 'evoke' colourful metaphors as to why this is a bad thing.

Fact is, the great 4x4 fad has been more about image than true off-roading and the penny has dropped with most buyers that they are spending more than necessary on fuel, tyres and wear and tear if they buy a true 4x4 that rarely gets its feet muddy.

So a front-wheel-drive, fuel-efficient option makes sense and is recruiting many new buyers to the RR brand who see 'urban runabout' etched into the Evoque's chunky profile as much as 'country wagon'.

Many are also women, who maybe don't like their other half's bulky Range Rover Sport or Land Rover 'Disco' but still want the country-set image or even something that really can walk the talk – as the Evoque really does in 4x4 form.

I proved the point when driving various Evoques across moorlands, rutted tracks and cloying mud in Scotland and proving that it is worthy of the Range Rover badge.

It's easy and comfortable to drive off-road and the trademark icon-driven Land/Range Rover terrain selector makes it simple to be in the right mode for particular conditions.

And it's pretty sharp on-road, too; though relatively high, the chassis is set up to give a flat cornering stance without body-roll, yet ride comfort is surprisingly good for a car with such composure.

I've since also driven a front-wheel-drive eco-friendly eD4 (£28,950) that is also the Evoque entry model.

Powered by a smooth 150bhp 2.2-litre diesel with six-speed gearbox, this version will hit 60mph in a respectable 10.6 seconds.

Importantly, though, for those checking the brand for the first time, it should also average almost 60mpg.

Helped by a stop/start system that cuts in and out in heavy traffic or jams, it also emits just 129g/km of CO_2, so it's exempt from road tax in year one and liable for £90/year thereafter – not bad for an SUV.

It certainly feels lighter on its feet than the 4x4 and just as much fun to drive, so those who simply want the Evoque look are not missing out, and the cabin is stunning even on this entry model.

I prefer the five-door model, though; the test car was a coupé and I was struck by the poor visibility for rear passengers and for the driver through that letterbox rear screen.

And I'm no fan of the huge barn-door mirrors it wears, either; the 2008 concept car wore minimalist ones that didn't make it to the production car.

BETTER BY DESIGN: Land Rover has caught the public's imagination with its newly-launched junior Range Rover, the Evoque, which not only looks good but is fun to drive

RANGE ROVER EVOQUE PURE COUPÉ eD4 2.2: PRICE £28,950

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£90 (zero year one)
Best rival:	Audi Q3

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

Big cat purrs for customers

JAGUAR has ended an 11-year reign by Lexus as best manufacturer in the demanding JD Power and Associates/What Car? customer satisfaction survey.

Cars are rated in four key areas: vehicle appeal, quality and reliability, ownership costs and dealer service.

Best car in the 2012 survey was the Kia Sportage SUV, with the Jaguar XF executive saloon, pictured, ajudged runner-up.

300C is better than before

CHRYSLER'S all-new second-generation 300C arrives in showrooms this week.

While it revives the retro look of the original – now seen as a motoring icon – the Fiat-owned American marque says the newcomer is better built, safer, even more lavishly equipped and more efficient than its predecessor.

Power comes from a new 3.0-litre V6 turbodiesel and prices start at just £35,995.

Gran Coupé has 6 appeal

BMW has followed in the footsteps of Mercedes-Benz and its CLS model by launching a four-door coupé this month.

The elegant new Gran Coupé (from £61,390) joins the existing two-door Coupé and Convertible models in the BMW 6 Series line-up but has been created on a stretched wheelbase to boost cabin space. One diesel and two petrol engines are offered.

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Information correct at time of going to print. Any models shown are for illustration purposes only and subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

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Jetta diverting from the Golf course

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GOLFS are hot – Jettas are not. Quite simply, the booted VW Golf has never been as popular as its hatchback sister.

VW tried changing its identity to Vento but got the wind up and went for Bora instead – a real shot in the foot – before reverting to Jetta with a sort of shrugged 'OK, you got me bang to rights'.

Not that you'd expect Jetta-owners to be so colloquial; their car has the blandest of images here, even if it's increasingly hard to see why.

Fact: the Jetta is huge in the US and catching on fast in the Far East.

Fact: Britain is in the fierce grip of downsizing, driven by economic and ecological necessity.

Fact: the VW badge sits somewhere between mainstream and premium, and buyers in the latter category prefer saloons to hatchbacks.

Fact: the Jetta is a decent product at a sensible price (from £17,165) and no longer simply a booted Golf. A wheelbase almost three inches longer gives it a cabin comparable to cars from the class above, such as VW's bulkier Passat.

The Jetta cabin is also typically VW, but not completely Golf, and it does have almost the same taut handling of what is now a half-sister rather than a full-blooded sibling.

Drive one for a few days as I did, and the smooth-riding car gets under the skin with its ability to please in most situations, a bit like a favourite pair of shoes... not slippers, I hasten to add.

MINI ROAD TEST VW JETTA SE 1.6 TDI 105 PS BLUEMOTION TECHNOLOGY: PRICE £19,960

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£20 (zero year one)
Best rival:	Volvo S40

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But as you complete your unruffled journey and get out, you note again that the exterior is unexceptional, so avoid default company-car choices – silver, gunmetal or, as in the case of the road-test car, metallic light blue – and go for black or red and leave it dirty.

VW seems to know it's pushing its luck with the Jetta at present; it could offer a glittering array of fine powertrains and glamorise the line-up with a turbocharged GTI, but the German marque tried that once a long time ago...

So there is a small sober-suited selection of tax-efficient, low CO_2 yet flexible engines capable of pleasing most company-car user-choosers and the occasional private buyer, and all available with VW's smooth-shifting seven-speed auto/manual DSG gearbox (from £19,930) as well as crisp standard five- and six-speed manuals.

There are two versions of VW's lively turbo-charged 1.4-litre petrol unit (120 and 158bhp), a 138bhp 2.0-litre performance diesel and a 103bhp 1.6-litre Bluemotion Technology eco diesel, as tested here. The 1.6 diesel is a low-tax all-rounder for the Jetta that is capable of aver-aging almost 70mpg but also reasonably lively if you decide to cast off the Jetta's sober image.

BlueMotion Technology brings low-rolling resistance tyres, battery regeneration via brak-ing and auto stop/start for the engine to cut emissions in heavy traffic or jams.

But we may need a rebirth of the Jetta GTI before the 'booted Golf' roars from the shadow of its hatchback sister.

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Main Dealer Servicing

There's still a place for main-dealer servicing

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S tempting to cut corners financially during tough economic times like now. No wonder, then, that some car-owners skimp on maintenance, stretch the service schedule or even ignore booking their car in for its regular garage check.

But it's a false economy. After buying a house, a car is usually the second biggest investment we make. It should be protected by ensuring the service schedule is kept up to date and repairs are carried out promptly and competently.

Not so long ago, the best guarantee here was a full main-dealer service history, a reassuring record that everything required of the car and the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But this became seen as a restrictive practice by the European Union, which made it illegal from 2002 for a car-manufacturer to insist that its cars were maintained solely by a franchised network to keep the guarantee intact.

It also meant that manufacturers had to make vehicle-diagnostics information – crucial with increasingly-sophisticated vehicles – specialist tools and updates available to independent garages and servicing centres.

So why do so many car-buyers continue to use main-dealer franchising when an independent outlet is now allowed to do the work and stamp the service book?

An obvious answer is that many car-buyers still believe it is the best way to preserve their investment and protect the part-exchange or second-hand value of the car – used-car-buyers will usually pay a premium for a full main-dealer service history.

Sceptics might argue, though, that this perceived premium is wiped out by paying higher main-dealer service costs.

It's a point, but manufacturers and their main-dealer networks have raised their game since the 2002 EU legislation. Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed during the economic downturn, dealers have become more competitive on servicing, cost-effective service plans, enhanced customer service and ancillaries like tyres and exhausts – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres.

They have also banked on the perception that only a main dealer's service technicians can know its cars as well they do.

And happy service customers keep coming back, seeing the latest new-car models in the showroom – that one day they may buy again.

PRICE IS RIGHT: Good-looking, sophisticated models like the Citroën DS5 deserve to be looked after

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CHECK IT OUT: The Alfa Romeo MiTo supermini is offered with a service deal, while Skoda has menu servicing on cars like the Yeti SUV

Pick a nice deal from the garage menu

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EVERY motorist dreads a shock garage bill, especially during tougher times like now.

But many dealers have turned to offering fixed-price deals to help customers smooth out and better control their motoring budgets.

Premium brands launched the concept first, aiming to break down the perception that their servicing was pricey and played upon an owners' reluctance to jeopardise the future value of a more expensive car by having it serviced independently.

It proved such a success that more mainstream brands have adopted the same tactic, enabling them to counter ambitious independent and quick-fit operators only too happy to siphon off the steady churn of servicing work.

The plans are also flexible – some are even free. Initially, they were to cover the car's warranty period – transferable in the event of the car's sale – or on an annual basis, but many brands have followed up with one-off deals or monthly instalment options, recognising that many drivers like to break down their motoring budget into more manageable chunks of money.

Best advice is to ask your main dealer about the menu of schemes available and get advice on the pros and cons of each one. The blurb for such schemes uses the word 'policy' a lot, for that is virtually what they are: insurance policies for servicing and the vehicle warranty – a cost-effective but necessary part of the month-by-month/annual cost of running a car.

Be aware too, though, that cars are increasingly reliable and warranties worth more.

The standard warranty is still three years and/or 60,000 miles, but a recent outbreak of 'warranty wars' has seen the years and mileages increase, with Hyundai, for instance, offering a five-year/unlimited mileage deal, while Vauxhall-buyers get a warranty for their lifetime with the car or 100,000 miles.

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To quick-fit or not... that is the question

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SORTED: If your new car, like this Hyundai i30, needs a replacement tyre or exhaust, you might find your main dealer can be just as cheap as a fast-fit centre

THERE is always going to be a temptation to go to the local 'quick/fast-fit' centre when replacing motoring consumables.

These specialist chains have boomed as drivers try to save money on exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock absorbers and routine services, plus the annual MOT.

But main dealers have not been idle, reckoning that if car-owners are still using their service bays, then they won't mind considering realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

Using the main dealer also guarantees only genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability and the knowledge that this will be logged on the dealer/manufacturer database

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing, has also encouraged owners to have bodyshop repairs done either by the franchise's own panel-beaters and paintshop or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from their quick-fit rivals, by offering menu pricing; this means that, like dining out, a customer can decide what he wants and knows in advance what it will cost – avoiding any motoring indigestion when the bill is presented.

Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via finance or servicing schemes covering several years.

Others may also offer a loyalty scheme with a tariff of cheaper prices to keep owners of older and lower-value models on their books rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector simply because they feel their car is no longer worth paying top servicing prices for.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit sector is longer working hours at main-dealer service centres; dealers are much more aware that many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – indeed, a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made centrally, too, so that customers living midway between two franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available

Car care best practice – our top tips

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DRIVING a modern car is a safer, more forgiving and comfortable experience that it was just a few years ago.

The downside is that much less can be done by the DIY mechanic, so keeping the car reliable, correct and safe is now more of a job for the professional and, of course, it costs.

Unfortunately, this tempts owners to ignore problems and stretch servicing beyond recommended parameters, endangering the warranty and the provenance of the car when you come to sell.

So the golden rules are:

- Maintain the service record by servicing at the correct mileages or annually and ensure the servicing book is properly stamped up, although some motor marques are switching to centralised digital records so a car's servicing history is always available.
- Check the warranty thoroughly for possible pitfalls endangering the guarantee.
- Act on recalls from the manufacturer, even if they do not relate specifically to safety. It will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.
- The MOT is not an assurance of the car's safety and reliability – problems can arise at any time and you should get them checked as soon as possible.
- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.

RELIABILITY FROM GOOD CARE: New cars like this innovative Peugeot 3008 crossover are more reliable and safer than ever – but still need looking after

- Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, including correct pressures as listed in the handbook or on the driver's side-door frame. The legal tread depth is 1.6mm, but most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter when icy and wet conditions can compromise grip.
- Keep oil, windscreen washer, coolant, power steering, clutch and brake fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights – it could be too late to prevent damage or compromise safety.
- Replace wiper blades. There's no point in topping up the washer bottle if the blades are worn or split. If the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, the washer and wipers will struggle – use a spray and some elbow grease.
- Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main-dealer servicing, it does not mean you have to go back to the one where you bought the car – some are better on pricing and customer service than others.

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- Check exhaust system
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- Visually check cooling system for leaks
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- Fit new engine oil filter
- Check brake pipes and lines
- Check exhaust system
- Inspect tyres and set pressures
- Report on tyre tread depths
- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze level and protection
- Check drive belts (excludes cambelt)
- Check all fluid levels
- Check battery condition
- Check air con system, report only
- Visually check front brake pads and discs
- Check suspension dampers
- Add screenwash and top up fluids
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ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743**

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787**

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

46YR old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143**

MONIQUE black, looking for N/S gentleman, 50-60 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391220**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

MARIE 45, Irish, GSOH, seeking male with GSOH and lots of energy for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391222**

JACKIE late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

SUSAN very pretty curvy blue eyed girlie girl, WLTM genuine male seeking a classy blonde for a mutually loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391085**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

AMANDA honest pretty single mum, 30, big brown eyes, attractive, seeking single male/dad for lots of tlc and companionship. pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389737**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

DEBBIE slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101**

CHARLIE young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051**

LAURA single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTM older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159**

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155**

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653**

JACQUELINE 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539**

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107**

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103**

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137**

TRIXI looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135**

YVONNE professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111**

SANDY slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTM loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840**

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057**

CHRIS outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055**

Men Seeking

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(T&C's below)

BEN 40, handsome, youthful, seeks young, sensual lady with nice personality for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391075**

48-58? me 56, fit, seeking lady wanting long lasting fun times and exciting uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390945**

FRISKY filly 48-60 wanted by experienced jockey, me 56yr old nice easygoing fella. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389527**

56YR old easygoing male, tactile, seeks lady, 48-65 who can handle a hot blooded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389367**

CHRIS 53, seeking female to put the sunshine back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391573**

RON 63, 5ft 6ins, looking for female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391332**

MALE 56, slim, fit, professional, looking for female, 40-55 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391286**

38YR old guy, seeking female for naughty fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391289**

72YR old widower, ex-navy, likes dancing, music, reading, dogs, seeks lady friend for nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391247**

ROBERT 31, 6ft, blondish hair, blue eyes, fun loving, single, seeking female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389941**

EASYGOING broadminded passionate male, seeks lady of any age for passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389939**

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275**

SURREY male, 63, 6ft, slim, OHAC, seeks younger, slim, N/S female, no ties for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388805**

MALE 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045**

GOOD looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923**

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495**

SINGLE male, 43, likes pubs, clubs, nights in, seeks young lady 25-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390876**

YACHT owning male, 52, seeks laughing lady who needs excitement and friendship. Hants/West Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390195**

DARK haired male, slim, seeks female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391002**

TONY 45, looking for lady, any age/size/looks for evening fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390992**

HEALTHY happy 49yr old male, seeks attractive, well spoken, N/S Sussex female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390938**

ROBERT 46, 5ft 9ins, tall, grey hair, kind, genuine, easy-going, honest, likes swimming, cycling, beach, meals out, country pubs, seeks female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391234**

MALE 56, lots of spare time, seeking lady 40 plus to spice up life with uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390795**

DISCREET afternoon fun by the seaside, male 39, good looking, seeks female, 18-60 for afternoon slap and tickle. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390936**

ERNEST looking for nice friendly lady, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390635**

ROB early 50's, slim, attractive, friendly, GSOH, likes company, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389445**

MARK 36, 5ft 8ins, average build, happy go lucky, GSOH, varied interests, seeks female for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391298**

CHRIS 5ft 3ins, 53, looking for someone to bring some sunshine back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391299**

LONELY romantic male, 47, medium build, blue eyes, likes walks, animals, music, pubs, seeks loving female, slim-medium build, 28-53 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391244**

MASTERFUL male, seeks submissive lady for special and unusual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391009**

Gay Seeking

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BRIAN 58 looking for male of similar age or older. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390100**

ROB 40, slim, professional, likes CD, looking for daytime meets with similar male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390002**

FRENCH researcher 65, seeks older gent 75 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390828**

JOHN 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, brown hair, slim, seeks black male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387274**

ROBERT bi-curious 49, medium build, seeks similar for discreet friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373547**

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CRICKET

It all still rings a bell for county's fanatical curator

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

KENT Cricket Club's curator David Robertson claims his memory is not what it used to be, yet in the blink of an eye he casually reels off the day he fell in love with his home county side.

It was July 1946 when Kent were playing Middlesex at The Mote in Maidstone, and Dennis Compton scored a century as the visitors were all out for 487.

A little over a year later and he had his first junior membership at the St Lawrence Ground at the age of 14.

And so it's the icing on the cake that 66 years on from his first encounter with Kent that Mr Robertson is starting his 13th year looking after the club's historical treasures which he does alongside his role as a bell ringer at his local church in Sandwich.

"If anyone had said to me on retirement to draw up a list of things to do voluntarily, this would have been top of the list," he said.

"I'm in my 13th year now, and it's been a most rewarding experience.

"It's something that I wouldn't have missed for the world, my great passion has been Kent cricket and it takes prominence for me over England."

It was at the invitation of the Kent committee that Mr Robertson took over after eminent cricket journalist Jim Swanton retired from the role.

Mr Robertson helped him research his final book 'Cricketers of My Time: Heroes to Remember' before taking up the post.

"He asked me if I would like to help him with his final book, that really was an experience of a lifetime," he said.

"My immediate role was to go through with him all his press cuttings, mainly obituaries and so on.

"He asked me to select 140 cricketers and whittle it down, I was given responsibility for compiling all the statistical information."

He soon swapped one set of statistics for another after getting the call to join as the honorary curator while on his way home from the memorable Cricket World Cup semi-final between Australia and South Africa in 1999.

"Our archive includes score books from the mid 19th century, and there are some wonderful stories that could be told," he said.

But statistics were nothing new for the former Labour Party political organiser, who as well as having a substantial collection of cricket memorabilia at his home, also has a record of political results.

He said: "My memory is nothing like as good as it used to be. But I've always been interested in statistics including those that related to my work as well. I have a passionate interest in elections.

"I have a quite substantial cricket collection, and a collection of The Times guides to the House of Commons. I've got them going back to 1929. Every result in every constituency in every General Election. I often look at those; it's a fascination I have.

"I do have to refer more and more to books now, than was the case. By and large I like to think I've still got the enthusiasm."

Although he has a passion for politics and his gardening, it's the action at the St Lawrence Ground that takes priority, and luckily match times fit in with his bell ringing rota ensuring he never misses a ball.

Picture: ADY KERRY

DAVID ROBERTSON'S TOP FIVE FROM KENT'S COLLECTION

1) The ball which legendary bowler 'Titch' Freeman took his 300th wicket, all achieved in one season in 1928.
2) Colin Cowdrey's silver cap representing his 100th appearance for England.
3) The bat that was owned by bowler Colin Blythe, who batted so rarely that he used the same one throughout his whole career.
4) A set of silver cuff links given to Frank Woolley after the 1909 championship win.
5) A scorebook detailing the first ever triple hundred to be scored in the game, achieved by WG Grace at the St Lawrence Ground for the MCC against Kent in 1876 when he hit 344.

And the more bizarre...

"We have got in our collection what's described as a notched score stick. Runs scored used to be recorded by someone carving a notch on a stick.

"Written in ink across it is something in Latin which I've never had translated, that really is quite a bizarre thing. Unfortunately the ink is very faded and difficult to read.

"The other thing we have is from the Sydney Cricket Ground which in the 1930s was covered in what's known as bulli soil, when it got wet it formed itself into lumps.

"When Leslie Ames toured Australia in 1930s he brought back a piece of this bulli soil, and it really is like a lump of coal."

FESTIVAL: Minis new and old to grace Brands Hatch weekend

MOTORSPORT

Former champion Curley set to go full circle after ten year absence

TWO-TIME Mini Miglia champion Ian Curley is set to get back behind the wheel of the car he enjoyed so much success with for the first time in ten years at Brands Hatch next weekend.

The 39-year-old from Yalding, won back-to-back championships in 1998 and 1999, as well as a category seven Mini championship in 1994, and after a period of growing up he will return at the circuit's Mini Festival.

After leaving the Mini circuit in 2002, he went on to race in the British Touring Car Championships before calling it a day in 2007.

But he admits his career was never over, just on a break.

"I have never really made a conscious decision to stop racing," he said. "In 2007 I got married, and I was fortunate enough to be in a position where I could build my own house, we had a couple of kids which is massively time consuming, I never ever realised how much time they demanded.

"Life changed for a bit, work got busy and I grew up."

Getting back behind the wheel competitively is sure to be a test for Curley who is waiting for his Mini to come to the country from Germany this week where it is in action.

"The car is racing in Germany before the festival meeting, so it's got to come back from Germany, and we need to fit the six valve engine, once that's done it will be ready for Brands," he said.

"I'm looking forward to it, it's only one race, I'm probably not fit enough, but I won't be able to do a lot in the next week.

"There's nothing to get too stressed about."

He has had his eye on returning for a little while, but it was just a coincidence that Brands Hatch was the next race on the calendar, and even more so considering it was where he made his debut in 1992.

"It was just luck, the car was ready, we were ready and Brands Hatch was the race to do, it didn't matter where it was, we would have done it," he said.

But while he is happy to be back, the idea of becoming a touring car driver again is less appealing.

He said: "If you could ever secure the funding, you would always want to do it, it's one of the best touring car championships in the world, but you have got to have the right car, the right management, and the right team, otherwise it's just a weekend of stress."

The Mini Festival takes place at Brands Hatch on June 16-17.

HORSERACING

Merger puts racecourse on track for bright future

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE worldwide economy may be in tatters, but it's not a problem that is affecting Folkestone Racecourse.

The circuit is set for a bumper summer of flat racing action, and while most parts of the country have been feeling the pinch, Folkestone has been hampered only by the rain which has seen several of their meetings called off this year.

But if the sun keeps shining racecourse manager Emma Santer is hoping the course can continue on the successful path it has been treading in the past few years, despite the country's financial crisis and cutbacks in prize money funding.

"Funding from the Birtish Horseracing Authority has dropped by 50 per cent since 2010 for the prize money pot, so we have to make it up in other places, but we have done okay," she said.

"I have been here for 10 years now, and seen it go from nearly being closed down back then to moving in the right direction."

The course is now part of 18 owned by the Rebeun Brothers Group of Companies, after they acquired the successful Northern Racing brand in March to merge it with their existing Arena Leisure – making it the largest group of racecourses in the country.

"We haven't noticed any difference, but it allows us to learn from other people," she said.

The merger hasn't stopped the ambitious plans for redevelopment at the course, which is hoped will take place in the next two to three years.

It would see the majority of the stadium and facilities flattened to make way for a new stand, as well as a completely new course layout.

She said: "For the last 10 years we have outgrown a lot of the facilities here which is why we are looking at a total redevelopment."

But for now they are fully focused on enhancing what they already have, including expanding their themed race days, the next being the Ladies Raceday taking place on Monday, June 11.

Gates open at 12.15pm, with the first race starting at 2.15pm and the last race taking place at 5.15pm.

GROWTH: Manager Emma Santer has big plans on the drawing board to redevelop Folkestone Racecourse

MOTORSPORT

Break from superbike champs proves testing time for Shakey

DOUBLE British Superbike Champion Shane 'Shakey' Byrne has been keeping busy in his time off from the series by taking the Aprilia Moto GP CRT machine out for a spin this week.

Byrne, from Sheppey, teamed up with James Ellison and the PBM UK team at the Catalunya track near Barcelona in Spain to help out with testing.

The 35-year-old, who is currently third in the BSB standings, joined Paul Bird's team to assist with their testing programme ahead of their home round when the British Grand Prix visits Silverstone next weekend.

Ellison and the PBM UK team will line up on the grid in the MotoGP class while the Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki BSB team will feature in the new Silverstone 200 support race while Byrne and his team mate Stuart Easton battle it out for the inaugural victory.

Speaking at the end of testing, Byrne said: "I wasn't sure what to expect from the test as I only had a couple of runs out on the bike and the aim was just to give some feedback to help James and the team. I was expecting the bike to be a bit more angry, but it was the opposite and although there are still areas that the team are currently working on I felt comfortable which just shows how hard the boys have been working already."

Byrne is among the frontrunners for the BSB title behind Kent rival Tommy Hill who's is second and Josh Brookes who's first.

There is a two week break until the next round of the championship at Scotland's Knockhill circuit on June 22-24.

FEEDBACK: Byrne happy to help

OLYMPICS

Oar-some selection news for Games rower Ransley

ASHFORD rower Tom Ransley's Olympic dreams have come true after he was selected to compete in the men's eight team.

The 27-year-old is one of the 14-strong rowing squad that will be going for gold this summer.

After being announced in the squad he said: "Today is a good part in the process on the way to hopefully achieving our goal.

"It is an important part and it is good to take some reflection but obviously at the end of the day it is about training to complete the job.

"The kit is not ours yet. We've got to give it back and get on with racing in Munich."

Ransley raced in the 2012 World Cup Series in the men's eight both in Belgrade and Lucerne. In Belgrade, the crew won a silver medal, finishing three seconds behind the German eight. The crew won silver once again in Lucerne but closed the gap to just over one second.

At the 2012 GB Rowing Team Senior Trials held in March at Eton, Ransley and crew mate Greg Searle came sixth in the men's pair.

He was also successful in the 2011 World Rowing Championships in Slovenia in the men's eight winning a silver medal.

In 2008 he rowed in the Boat Race and he was one of the four Cambridge University rowers selected to race together as a development men's four at the third World Cup in Poznan.

Picture: INTERSPORT IMAGES

HOPEFUL: Ransley going for gold

CRICKET

BITE: Adams knows Sharks will be tough match

Adams relishing the challenge of Sharks in first T20 encounter

KENT coach Jimmy Adams feels his side are well prepared for all formats of the game ahead of their first T20 match of the season on Tuesday.

The Spitfires entertain Sussex Sharks in the final game of the Tunbridge Wells Cricket Festival at the Nevill Ground.

And West Indian Adams is looking for more of what he has already seen from his side as they take on last year's beaten quarter-finalists.

"I think we have the acumen to do well across all formats, I honestly do," he said. "It's a case of trying to be as prepared as we can.

"They have been consistent in T20 the last few years."

The limited overs game is one that Adams didn't get to play too much of in his career, but he feels it's a good addition to the calendar.

He said: "I played some T20 in the past against half-decent opposition, I quite enjoyed it, it's really entertaining. Anything that forces you to be instinctive and thinking on your feet is good. It's a good addition to the cricket itinerary."

In last year's competition the Spitfires made it out of the group stages having finished third in the table in the South group, behind second placed Sussex.

But they lost in the quarter-finals to Leicestershire by three wickets, while Sussex lost at the same stage to Lancashire by 20 runs.

Kent head into the match with a superior head-to-head record having won seven of the 13 matches to Sussex's five, while there was one match abandoned.

Although there has been little by way of outstanding individual performances in the T20, a couple of high-scoring games are worth highlighting.

At Canterbury in 2007 the aggregate score was 363 with Sussex overtaking Kent's 181-3 with 17 balls to spare. Luke Wright's century was off just 44 balls. In 2010 at Hove Kent, batting first, scored 194-1 with Rob Key hitting 98 from 55 balls. The Sussex reply fell short by some 27 runs.

In the four-day game Sussex are currently midtable in LV=County Championship Divsion One, with won win and three losses to their name.

While in the CB40 they are second in the same division as Kent, having won three of their four encounters.

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